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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. IX.—NO. 11. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 20, 1872.

The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth Avenue and Smithfield Street, opposite Postoffice.

C. G. BRIGHAM, Editor.

M. F. EGAN, Business Manager.

☞ Terms of the Daily: Single copy, 5 cents; delivered by carriers (per week,) 25 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), $10 00.

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LEGAL TENDER.

OPINION OF THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

The Legal Tender Act Constitutional

WASHINGTON, January 15.—Justice Strong delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court today in the legal tender case, substantially as follows. The debts which have been contracted since February 25, 1862, are by far the greatest indebtedness of the country. They were contracted in view of acts of Congress declaring treasury notes legal tender, and in reliance upon that declaration the legal tender notes have become the universal measure of values. If the courts should decide that these obligations can be discharged only by gold, the government has authorized one of the grossest injustice. There is no well founded distinction to be made between the constitutional validity of an act of Congress declaring treasury notes a legal tender for the payment of debts contracted after its passage, and that of an act making them legal tender for the discharge of all debts—as well those incurred before as those made after its enactment. But in both cases the fundamental question, that which tests the validity of legal action, is, "Can Congress constitutionally give to treasury notes the character and qualities of money? Can such notes be constituted legitimate, having a defined legal value?" A lengthy examination of the rules of constitutional construction is made, and the conclusion is that Congress has authority in all cases to enact laws necessary and proper for the execution of all powers created by the Constitution, and that the necessity spoken of is not absolute but within the judgment and discretion of Congress. It is determined that one of the duties of government is to preserve itself, and held that the Government is possessed of all necessary powers to this end. The question as to the existence of the condition of the country at the date of the issue of the legal tenders, the circumstances of war and the means required to maintain the army and navy, if it is said that if it were certain that nothing else would have supplied the absolute necessities of the time, the legal tender law should have enabled the Government to maintain its army and navy; that nothing else could have saved the Government and Constitution from destruction, which the legal tender acts would, it cannot be said that Congress transferred its power in the enactment of those laws, and if those enactments did work the result, it can be maintained now that they were not for a legitimate end, and appropriate and adapted to that end. In the language of Marshall, in McCullough vs. Maryland, that they did work such results cannot be doubted, and it is not necessary for Congress to enact means might have been chosen for the accomplishment of the same necessary object, the argument is not weakened by the concession. Congress had the choice of means, and it chose a sufficient and proper one; and that it had a right to do, and that was all it could have done. If the Court were to adopt the construction were beyond the constitutional power of Congress, because in their opinion some other means would have been equally appropriate and effective, they would be to assume legislative power and to disregard the accepted rules for construing the Constitution.

The grant to Congress of power to coin money cannot be regarded as containing an implied prohibition against the issue of legal tender notes, and it raises any implications, they are of complete opposite and not contrary, rather than restraining. The objection that the legal tender act impairs the obligation, of contracts cannot be accepted, for it is not an obligation of the debtor to pay money, but one to pay contracts, but to pay money generally, not contracts to pay specially defined money or the kind of money recognized by the law when the contract was made; nor is it his duty to pay money of equal intrinsic value in the market. The essentials of the creation of the obligation of the debtor may have been that the contract would be discharged by the payment of coined metals, but neither the expectation of one party to the contract or the other, nor that anticipations of the other constitutes its obligation. The obligation of a contract to pay money is to pay that which the law recognizes as money when the payment is to be made. If there is anything settled by the decision it is this, and it cannot be understood to be controverted.

As to the objection that legal tender acts were prohibited by the constitutional provision prohibiting the taking of private property for public use without just compensation, it is said that this provision has always been understood to refer only to direct appropriation, and not consequential injuries resulting from the exercise of lawful power. The objection that the mint of money value must possess intrinsic value is regarded as foreign to the question. The legal tender acts do not attempt to make a standard of value. Their validity is not rested upon the assertion that their omission a coinage or any regulation of the value of money, nor is it asserted that Congress has power to enact that Government promises to pay money shall be for the time being equivalent in value to the precious metals to be determined by the coinage acts, or to the multiples thereof.

This decision overrules so much of what was decided in Hepburn *vs.* Griswold, 8 Wall, 603, as ruled the legal tender acts unwarranted by the Constitution, so far as they apply to contracts made before their enactments.

Mr. Justice Bradley read a lengthy opinion concurring in the conclusions of Justice Strong.

The Chief Justice and Justices Clifford and Field, all dissenting Justices except Justice Nelson, who was not present, read dissenting opinions, setting forth at great length the minority views, which are substantially familiar as having been the opinion of the Court in the former decision of the legal tender question. In concluding, the Chief Justice says:

"If, then, the plain sense of the words, if contemporary exposition of the language of the constitution, if understanding, if the opinions of the Court avail anything in determining the meaning of the Constitution, it seems impossible to doubt that the power to make money is a power to establish a uniform standard of value, and that no other powers to establish such a standard is conferred upon Congress by the Constitution. My brethren, Clifford and Field, concur in these views, but in consideration of the importance of the principles involved, will deliver their separate opinions. My brother Nelson also dissents."

No other opinions were delivered, and the Court sat until five o'clock for the reading of opinions in the cases. The Chief Justice announced that the Court would not sit to-morrow, but would be engaged in conference. The dissenting opinions fill about the first that they constitute, on the former decision, was to ably argued and decided with as mature deliberation as any cause ever before the Court by a full Court, the decision being pronounced by five Justices against three dissenting. The Court by law then consisted of eight Justices, and its decision is now overruled by five Justices out of the Court as now composed of nine justices, and all those then upon the bench now retaining the views then expressed.

THE FLORIDA AFFAIR.

An Authoritative Statement of What Happened to the Steamer.

NEW YORK, January 12, 1872.—The *Tribune* says George Mitchell, master of the steamship Florida, has made a sworn statement of the circumstances attending the departure of the Florida from the port of St. Thomas. This statement, which is corroborated by the first and second mates and others of the crew of vessel, is as follows:

On the 14th of December the Florida set sail from St. Thomas, laden in ballast and bound for New York. At eight o'clock of the morning of that day the United States war vessel Vasco Nunez De Balbo, which had been watching the Florida while in port, was seen passing Water Island under steam and sail, directly in track of the Florida. At 10:30 a. m. the war steamer, which bore East N. E. distant five miles, slowed up her sails and bore down on the Florida. The smoke of a steam vessel was seen to the windward, when the war steamer hauled to the northward in a parallel course with that of the Florida. The strange steamer proved to be the Halifax and St. Thomas mail boat. The war steamer then bore down on the Florida with her crew at quarters and guns run out ready for action. When the war steamer was in speaking distance she fired a blank gun at the Florida, and lowered a boat nearly to the water's edge. The United States flag was then hoisted on the Florida, but further notice was taken of the hostile demonstrations. Ten minutes after firing the first gun the war steamer fired a second gun and the shot was seen to ricochet astern of the Florida. The Florida was then hove to and a cutter from the war steamer came toward her. The boat from the Vasco Nunez DeBalbo came alongside and an officer and interpreter came on board the Florida and requested to see her papers, which were shown to them by the master, and after examining the papers the officer returned them. He then asked permission to go through the lower decks, and the master, considering that it would be useless to contend against superior force, acquiesced. The officer then went from the cabin through between decks and came out the fore hatchway, having gone through the ship from hatchway to hatchway. The officer and interpreter then went away, telling the master he could proceed on his voyage. The Florida then proceeded on her course to New York. On December 21st she became disabled in a gale and was obliged to bear away for Nassau, where she arrived on the morning of the 24th of December. Having repaired damages, on Saturday, 30th of December, the Florida sailed from Nassau and proceeded on her intended voyage to New York, a Spanish gunboat following the ship out of port. When distant about a mile from the Florida, the gunboat fired a blank shot. At 9:40 the Spanish gunboat fired a shot, which came whistling through the air across the Florida's stern, falling in the water some two hundred or three hundred yards distant. The Master then hove the ship to. An officer from the gunboat came aboard the Florida in a boat, with the boat's crew all armed. The officer came on board the Florida and requested to see her papers, which were shown him. He read and returned them to the master. He then asked permission to go through the lower decks, which the master, having no power to resist, consented to. At 10:30 the officer left the Florida, which made all sail and proceeded on her voyage to New York.

FISK'S DREAM OF LOVE,

And Its Rude Awakening.

The Marble Heart—Falsehood's Return for Unbounded Generosity—Marco Mansfield, Her Paramour and Their Victim

NEW YORK, January 14.—The *Herald* publishes the Fisk-Mansfield correspondence. It says Fisk and Stokes first met in the summer of '69. The latter was comparatively poor. A year before Fisk was introduced to Miss Mansfield, at her own request, at the residence of Annie Wood, on Thirty-fourth street. She was poor, and told Mrs. Wood that she had not a decent article of clothing. Fisk took her fancy, and she became his mistress. The intimacy ripened into strong affection on his side. At this juncture Fisk and Stokes became intimate. An oil refinery belonging to the latter's mother was put in working order at Fisk's expense, and a company formed. Stokes was at first made treasurer of the company, but having drawn out over thirty-two thousand dollars in the course of four months, the company was reorganized, and he was appointed Secretary of the new corporation. From the new company he drew out over thirty-seven thousand dollars in the course of six months, and on January 6th, 1871, he collected in one day $27,000 of the company's money, no part of which, Fisk claimed, was due to him, and put it in his pocket, telling some of his friends that he had $27,000 of Fisk's money and meant to keep it. For this he was arrested in the manner hereafter stated, but upon his discharge from arrest a compromise was entered into by which he was allowed to keep what money was in his possession, and was paid $15,000 more for himself and $6,000 for his mother, in order to induce him to sell out his interest and retire from the company. In one way or another Stokes managed to leave the company with $130,000 more money than he had when he went into it, all of which he derived directly from his relations with Fisk.

Stokes, meantime, had been introduced to Mansfield, at whose house he spent days and nights. Fisk grew jealous, and Stokes swore he had no cause; but Fisk was not satisfied, and sought to break his connection with the woman, even though he did love her. He wrote a farewell letter to Josie, and then she would write a sweet reply, when Fisk would repent and send her a present, and often a sum of money. While she was thick with Stokes, Fisk was all the time sending her money, cheated me. He will look for the same, and now as I know precisely how you stand from your own life, I will treat him differently; although you would not protect him, I will. While he is there, and until his memory is buried forever, never approach me, for I shall send you away unseen. Ever be careful that you do not have the feeling that you can come back to me, for there is a wide gulf between you and me. I would not hold a false hope out to you; I shall not trouble you more. In this letter you have the only idea I can express to you. You know when you can see me again, if ever. The risk for you is too great. Loving and suited as you are, cling to him for the present, and when your nature grows tired of that, throw him off, and so long until it is time for you to be weary and for you to be 'put in your little bed' forever, you must rest contented. Don't begin plotting to-morrow; take to-morrow for thought, and be governed by this letter, for the writer has much of your destiny in his hands."

Notwithstanding their last farewell letter Josie still clung to Fisk. She asked him for for favors, asked him for money, which Fisk in his good nature almost always gave. After this we find Fisk completely melted again, and and still in love with the woman to whom he had written such severe letters. Josie never gave him up, she kept in his way. By and by Fisk's love came back by degrees, and we now see him writing as fondly as ever. November 16, 1870:

"DEAR DOLLY: Don't feel that way. Go out riding to-night, darling. I will take you to rest. I shall go out at half-past three, and you can safely look ahead, darling, for rest. It will come, and we shall be happy again. Yours, truly, [Signed] JAMES."

There are a large number of letters published, but the remainder are short and were written during the time Fisk was a constant visitor at Mansfield's. Most of these notes contained liberal enclosures of money. Following are specimens:

"10th of March.

"DEAR DOLLY: Enclosed find $75, which you need. Don't wait dinner for me to-night. I cannot come. Yours truly ever, JAMES."

"ST. JAMES HOTEL, SUNDAY, October, 18, '70.

"DEAR JOSIE: Enclosed you will find $143. Yours, truly."

"FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL—DOLLY: Inclosed find money. Bully morning for a funeral. J. F."

Fisk sent $1,000 to Josie in November, with this memorandum:

"ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY, TREASURER'S OFFICE, November 7, 1870.—Receiving desk $500. W. H. B."

"ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY, TREASURER'S OFFICE, November 19th, 1870.—Receiving desk $500. Wm. H. B. Please acknowledge receipt. James."

After Fisk and Josie had made up, Stokes entered the field. He persuaded Josie that the letters which Fisk had written were of immense value to him, and that he would pay any price rather than have them exposed to the gaze of the public, so in a fatal hour Josie consented to go back to Fisk.

The *Tribune* to-morrow will publish a statement on authority of Edward S. Stokes, that the Fisk-Mansfield correspondence, published to-day in the *Herald*, contains only the unimportant letters, which have no bearing upon the case, and that the remaining letters to be published will fully bear him (Stokes) out in all the statements which he has made relative to this correspondence.

INTERESTING FROM JAPAN.

Departure of the Embassy and Object of the Mission—Progress of Enlightenment.

YOKAHOMA, December 23.—The Japanese Embassy, composed of the highest rank yet sent abroad, leave to-day to confer with the Governments of the treaty powers in relation to the revision of the treaties demanded to be made before July, 1872. These representatives are progressive and profess great friendship for foreigners. As evidences of friendship, the Embassy has now the opportunity of conveying to you the boon of free intercourse with the natives, whereby their commerce and resources will be developed by foreign capital and their depleted treasury be enriched. Mr. Delong, American minister, has won the good opinion of his countrymen here, and will reach Washington with the Embassy. Three Japanese men-of-war will start for Europe shortly to meet the Embassy there.

A fire at the Yashiwara tea houses destroyed four hundred houses, and eighty women were burned or drowned in the surrounding ditches. Fires at Yeddo, are reported all caused by the careless use of kerosene. A naval review took place at Yeddo, the Mikado being present and much interested. The United States frigate Colorado went up to the Mikado to the Mikado, but the naval review was soon to occur, the Japanese begged the Minister to send her away, as she was entirely too near the Mikado, fearing she might calculate that their fleet was not as well kept as the American. So the Colorado departed for China, avoiding the Golden Gate.

A late edict of the Mikado says: My country is undergoing a complete change from old to new ideas, which I sincerely indorse. Therefore, while all this is going on, I am not minded to appear and become good guides to the Government during youth time. It is positively necessary to view the foreign countries so as to become familiar with the ideas of the world, and boys as well as girls, who will themselves soon become men and women, should be allowed to go abroad, and my country will benefit by the knowledge so acquired. Females heretofore have had no position socially, because it was considered they were not worth cultivating. Educated and intelligent they should have respect.

Six young Japanese women of rank go to America, in the care of Mrs. Delong, and will be sent to a seminary of learning at the expense of the government.

Gortschakoff's Letter—Alexis Not to be Allowed to Revisit Washington.

NEW YORK, January 15.—A Berlin letter states that the German Government has received a circular from Gortschakoff, relative to some incidents arising from the recall of Catacazy. This circular is said to have been necessary from the following circumstances: American Minister Kramer, during a minuet at the house of the German Minister at Copenhagen, proposed the reading of a letter from the American Government, explanatory of the Catacazy affair, but the Russian Minister refused to allow the letter being published in such a letter must not be read in his house. Subsequently Kramer went to each Minister in Copenhagen and read the letter to them individually. They, of course, reporting it to their Governments.

The Russian cabinet feels vexed over the affair, and considers that in it the late cordial coolness between Russia and the United States has arisen therefrom. The same letter states that advices from St. Petersburg represent that the Emperor and all around him entertain that Alexis is slighted by President Grant not returning his visit, and the Emperor will not allow Alexis to return to Washington.

IN SOME of its features the Wharton case is not unlike that of the celebrated Palmer, case which occurred in England sixteen or seventeen years ago. Palmer was a physician, but a gambler and *roue*. It was at length noticed that several of his relatives, one after another, had died soon after Palmer had obtained insurances on their lives. One of them was therefore made the subject of a *post mortem* examination, when antimony was found, but not in sufficient quantities to produce death. The prosecution then adopted the theory that he had been poisoned with strychnine, and explained the fact that there was no evidence of the presence of that drug in the intestines, by the hypothesis that there had been just enough administered to produce death and leave no trace behind. On this theory, Palmer was found guilty and executed; and the justice of this result has never been question. The resemblance of this case to that of Mrs. Wharton is the failure of the medical testimony to establish the presence of sufficient poison in the remains.

THE London *Times* tells of a Tichborne case which happened three hundred years ago in France. Martin Guerre married at the age of eleven, and after living with his wife ten years—during which period they had one child—he ran away. At the end of eight years a man appeared whose claim to the long lost Martin was at once acknowledged by the tenant's wife and the rest of the family. For three years there was no question of the identity of the new comer with the errant husband, and when finally it was disputed the wife and many of the relatons affirmed it. Two trials took place, in which the conflict of evidence was remarkable, fifty witnesses on each side giving contradictory testimony. The case was determined by the appearance of the real Martin, of whom the imposter had been an intimate associate during a long campaign. The rogue, who had thus betrayed his friend's confidence was condemned to be hanged and burit.

AMONG the recently first published letters of Dickens's descriptive of his first visit to this country, occurs the following passage: We had, by the by, another serenade at Hartford, from a Mr. Adams (a nephew of John Quincy Adams) and a German friend. They were singers, and when they began, in the beautiful singers, and when they began, in the beautiful night, and I heard a long musical, echoing passage outside our chamber door, singing, in low voices to guitars, about home and about friends and other topics that they knew would interest us, we were more moved than I can tell you. In the midst of my sentimentality, though, a thought occured to me which made me laugh so immoderately that I was obliged to cover my face with the bedclothes. "Good heavens!" I said to Kate, "what a monstrously ridiculous and commonplace appearance my boots must have, outside the door!" I never was so impressed with the sense of the absurdity of boots in all my life.

A mysterious horse disease, which baffles the skill of the veterinary surgeons, has broken out in Maine and New Brunswick, and many horses have already died from it.

XLII. CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 15, 1872.

SENATE.

Several petitions in favor of revenue reform, for the removal of duties on coal, salt, pig iron, &c., were presented. The Committee on Commerce reported without amendment the bill to promote the construction of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad.

At one o'clock Mr. SUMNER'S supplementary civil rights bill came up, and the author made a speech in its support. He held that slavery in a disguised and modified form still existed, in so far as the colored people were denied equal rights, and must be abolished before the great work would be complete. He reviewed the hardships and indignities suffered by the colored people, and cited the eminent cases of Frederick Douglass and Lieutenant Governor Dunn. He denied that equal rights before the law was a question of social equality. Equality in all institutions created or recognized by law was not a question of society. Separate hotels, conveyances, &c., were but artificial substitutes for equality. The substitute is invariably of inferior article. He cited the old English law on the subject of inns or hotels, which were bound to receive all persons without distinction, and business in this country sustaining the same principle, which applies with equal force to public conveyances, common schools, theaters, &c.

He dwelt at length on the subject of public schools, giving illustrations of the hardships imposed on colored children by their exclusion. He declared that by the decree against slavery all semblance of apology for prejudice against color was removed. In conclusion, Mr. Sumner regretted that the President in his message, favored amnesty, while he said nothing of disabilities inflicted on the colored people, but took courage when he thought that the proposed generosity to rebels could not fail to quicken the sentiment of justice which he now invoked. He disclaimed all sentiment of personal hostility toward those who assailed the republic, but while willing to be gentle with former enemies, he could not forget his duty to his fellow-citizens, white and black, who stood by the Republic. There were strong reasons why this measure of justice to the colored race should be united with amnesty, especially since the latter is pressed, and clearly between the two pre-eminence should be accorded to that for equal rights for all.

MR. VICKERS followed. He said he would not undertake to answer Senator Sumner's speech on his supplementary civil rights bill, because it required no argument to demonstrate the gross unconstitutionality of that measure. He then read a long argument in favor of the pending general amnesty bill. At the conclusion of Vickers's speech, the Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. NEGLEY, for the sale of the quartermaster's depot in Pittsburgh, and for the erection of a custom house and marine hospital; also, one for the improvement of the Monongahela and Monongahela rivers; Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, one for the removal of political disabilities, which gives rise to endless agitation; one for the repeal of the tenure of office acts; Mr. SMITH, for the construction of a national railroad from New York to Chicago; Mr. STEVENSON, for a complete water line from the Atlantic to the ocean by the James river to the Ohio at the mouth of the Kanawha; Mr. CLARKE, of New York, to provide a currency of equal value in coin and paper throughout the United States; Mr. HEREFORD, for a system of locks and dams on the Great Kanawha river in West Virginia.

Mr. NEGLEY introduced a bill to establish at a port of entry and delivery at Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved that it be put upon its passage. Mr. HOOPMAN objected. Mr. NEGLEY moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. DAWES, a special Committee of nine was appointed to investigate the troubles in New Orleans, with power to send for persons and papers, and to sit in Washington or elsewhere.

A bill was reported from the Committee on Education and Labor to establish an educational fund, and to apply the proceeds of sales of public lands to the education of the people. Recommitted.

An amnesty bill, being the one passed at the last session of the House, and now pending in the Senate, was reported, and the bill, as thus passed, yeas 170, nays 31. It excepts members of Congress and officers of the army and navy who joined the rebellion.

Adjourned.

How Rattlesnakes are Born.

About the 10th of May last, Doctors Cardwell and Westmoreland captured, at Prospect, in the lower edge of Giles county, near the Alabama line, a rattlesnake four feet three inches long and five inches in circumference. The snake was sent to the exposition, but the managers not deeming it proper to receive it, it was sent to the drug store of Messrs. Berry & Demoville, who also declined to give it quarters. It was then sent to the drug store of C. Cotton, in South Nashville, where it has been since the 15th of May. When captured it had eight rattles and a button. Since that time it has been confined in a glass case, and has not partaken of one particle of food, though it has been tempted with mice and other small animals, on which the reptile is accustomed to feed. The snake manifested no inconvenience from its confinement, nor did it lose any in size or vitality. It whetted its fangs continually to glisten like magnetic steel, and its lancinating tongue ready to protrude at the appearance of any one coming near the case. Dr. Cotton thought all the while it was a male. Though small mice and rats have been confined in the case with the snake until their own hunger urged them to seek safe hiding places, the snake refused to give them notice or to partake of food. On two or three occasions it has taken small quantities of water. On the 15th inst., Mr. Cotton, on going into the back room of the store where the case is kept, it was discovered that the snake had given birth to four young snakes, one for each foot. Its tail was used in birth to three more, making seven in all. The young snakes made their appearance one at a time, and in a coiled state, being pushed out by a wriggle, disentangling their entwined tongues continually darting out. The young ones are each from nine to fifteen inches in length, and in a state of development. They are very quick of motion, and possess no ordinary spinal vitality, as they crawl readily to the top of the case and move with celerity across and around the bottom. They are being possessed of singular and contrary to all the received notions concerning the reptile, each of these young snakes is a female. A year or two passed, and Mr. Fillmore met and married the widow—and the $10,000.

THE mortuary reports of St. Louis, for the past year, just published, prove it to be one of the healthiest of the large cities of the United States. The deaths the last year were only two per cent. of the population, and a decrease of 1,608 from the year preceding.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Operations of the B. & O. Company.

The Continental Railway Company.

Detroit, Fort Wayne and St. Louis Railway.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 15, 1872.

An adjourned meeting in the interest of the Detroit, Fort Wayne and St. Louis Railroad, held here to-day, was well attended. A committee was appointed to act in conjunction with delegates from other points, and resolutions expressing the feelings of Allen county and Fort Wayne as in favor of the project were passed. It is said that the prospects along the proposed line are favorable to its construction, and substantial aid is guaranteed.

The Baltimore and Ohio Company.

We make the following extracts from the annual report of Hon. John W. Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company:

The Revenues of the main stem, including the Winchester and Strasburg and Washington county branches, are	$9,913,390 49
Of the Washington branch	427,579 42
Of the Parkersburg branch	735,696 34
Of the Central Ohio division	946,246 15
Of the Lake Erie division	513,768 51
Of the Wheeling, Pittsburgh and Baltimore (formerly the Hempfield) Railroad, from May 1st to September 30th	23,449 51
Total	$12,557,529 42
The total amount of revenues compared with the preceding year is, 1871	$12,557,529 42
1870	10,840,370 48
Increase	$1,717,158 94

The gross earnings of the Main Stem, including the Winchester and Potomac, Washington county and Winchester and Strasburgh branches, have been $9,913,390 49.

The expenses of working and keeping the roads and machinery in repair, amounted to $3,967,887 68, being for 58-100 per cent. upon the earnings, showing a decrease of 5 12-100 per cent. compared with the previous year.

It is shown that the arrears, in comparison with the fiscal year 1870, have increased $1,-485,662 33, and the whole working expenses $485,427 68, making a comparative increase in the net profits of $1,032,234 65. Compared with the fiscal year 1869, the increase of earnings being $1,188,474 75, and of working expenses $150,784 22, the increase of net profits amounts to $1,037,693 53.

During the fiscal year, the sinking fund for the redemption of the city loan increased to $1,354,316 67, showing a gain of $76,937 58.

Under the action of the sinking fund for the redemption of the city debt, the Monongahela 5 per cent. loan of $17,200 of those bonds were purchased in London and cancelled, thus, at $4 84 per pound sterling, reducing that debt $80,248 00.

A dividend of 5 per cent. upon the capital stock was paid on the 31st October, 1870, and a similar dividend on the 1st May, 1871. The United States tax thereon was also paid by the Company.

The liabilities of the Company, compared with the statement of September 30th, 1870, have increased as follows:

Preferred stock, second series, 6 per cent., $131,400 00.

Mr. NEGLEY introduced a bill to establish a port of entry and delivery at Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved that it be put upon its passage. Mr. HOOPMAN objected. Mr. NEGLEY moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Agreed to.

The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road, now known as the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad, was opened for business in May last. The development of the coal fields large, and demand a rapid increase of plant. The road is being supplied with additional locomotives and cars, and it is believed that the sanguine expectations entertained regarding the results of that important line will be ultimately realized.

Arrangements are progressing for the extension of this road through Pittsburgh to the great Northwest. It is expected that the construction of the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Chicago Railroad, projected as an air line route, will be with such vast advantages to all the extensive and varied interests with which it is to be connected, will be rapidly effected.

Philadelphia and Reading Road—Net Profits Last Year Over $5,000,000.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company was held at Philadelphia on Monday, at which Franklin B. Gowen, President, submitted his annual report, showing that the prosperity of the road is greater than any previous year since its construction:

	1870.	1871.
Gross receipts	$8,555,797	$12,557,583
Gross earnings	6,508,786	7,355,903
Net profits	$3,062,581	$5,000,940

During the seventeen weeks of the coal strike Mr. Gowen says the entire anthracite tonnage was only 563,166 08, and for the remainfng thirty-five weeks of the year it amounted to 4,858,316 18 tons. The Philadelphia & Reading suffered more than the company from the results of this disastrous strike, and those of the regions above mentioned must have lost at least $5,000,000 which cannot be regained. In regard to the acquisition of coal lands upon the lines of the several branches of the road, with a view of exercising a wholesome control over the coal, and this prevent a recurrence of difficulties heretofore experienced, President Gowan says that up to this time about 70,000 acres of the best anthracite lands have been thus acquired and will be held by an auxiliary company, known as the Philadelphia and Reading coal and iron company, of which the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company is the only stockholder. The result of this action has been to secure and attach to the company the best coal lands now available of supplying all the coal tonnage that can possibly be transported over the road for centuries. This result has been obtained without imposing any burden upon the consuming communities. The lands purchased are already so far developed that it is estimated they will produce more than half the tonnage of 1,200,000, and it is believed that in less than three years the net annual revenue arising from the lands will be greater than the interest payable upon the loan of $25,000,000 issued to secure them.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected Directors for the ensuing year at the meeting: President, Franklin B. Gowen; Managers, H. Pratt M'Kean, A. E. Borie, R. B. Cabeen, J. B. Lippincott, John Ashhurst, Charles E. Smith, Henry Pfouts, Samuel Bradford; Secretary, J. W. Jones.

The Continental Railway Company.

Concerning a new grand trunk line from New York to Omaha, a writer in the *Akron Beacon* has this to say: "The project was mentioned in our columns in November, 1870: "In organizing the North American Railway Company, which was afterwards consolidated with the New York Western, the Eastern terminus was fixed at New London. Afterwards, when we came to make a farther consolidation of all the different lines of railways from New York to Omaha, under the title and name of the Continental Railway Company, it was for the same reasons necessary to change the eastern terminus from New London to the east line of the State; and the object of the court proceedings was to complete this connection. Our consolidation is now complete under the name and style of the Continental Railway Company, from New York city through the two Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa to Omaha; running through the city of Akron, forming the shortest and most direct route between the two points, and yet been projected between the east and the west in the country, and having by far the lightest grade; so that it is, in short, a most magnificent scheme.

"Its completion is estimated to cost forty millions, and it is now being worked up by Mr. Abbott, who has very great faith in the ultimate success of the enterprise. Not much has been said about it, but the ardent friends of the enterprise anticipate that English capital will seek its investment in it.

"I am never sure of anything in railroad projects until they are well under way, yet hope for the success of this."

—The Muncy Creek Railroad will be formally opened to-day, by an excursion from Williamsport.

—The Tiffin correspondent of the Toledo *Commercial* says: "It seems to be pretty well settled at present that we are to have the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. They contemplate building a road from Chicago through Defiance through Tiffin and Fostoria, and expect to have the portion from Chicago to the Lake Erie division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad completed in about one year, and the remainder in about one or two years."

—The Boston *Advertiser* states that of 123 petitions filed in the office of Secretary of State of Massachusetts, 47—more than one-third are for charters for new roads or for the alterations of charters already granted. Last year, out of 104 petitions, only 26 asked for railway legislation; and in 1869, 33 out of 103. The whole number of new projects submitted to the Legislature will exceed 60, and the *Advertiser* anticipates some lively and prolonged contests between opposing interests.

—At the meeting of the stockholders of the Clarion County Railroad, at Sligo, on the 8th inst., the following board of directors was elected for the ensuing year: Wm. Phillips, Wm. M. Lyon, David McClay, W. W. Barr, E. E. Lyon, B. M. Means and Wm. Reichard, M. D. Colonel A. P. Lyon was chosen President of the board, and Capt. D. E. Lyon, Secretary and Treasurer. It is the intention of the Company to commence building a narrow gauge railroad, early in the spring, from Lawsonham on the Bennett's branch, of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, to Sligo—the route having been located during the past atumn. A strong effort will then be made to extend the road to Clarion.

A Freight Train Falls Into a River.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 15, 1872.

At Liberty Center, on the Wabash Road this morning, a car on a freight train jumped the track on a bridge, by which sixteen cars were precipitated into the river. There was a heavy loss of freight, but no one injured.

ILLITERACY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Ignorant and Uneducated of the Nation—Facts from the Forthcoming Report of Gen. Eaton, Commissioner of Education—An Alarming Exhibit.

The United States Commissioner of Education, General John Eaton, Jr., in his annual report, has prepared from advanced sheets of the census, a variety of statistics of illiteracy. A table giving the nativity of illiteracy in the United States in 1870 shows that there is an aggregate of 777,864 foreign illiterates, of whom 663,985 are in the Northern States; 39,496 in the Pacific States and Territories, and 72,283 in the Southern States; that there is an aggregate of 4,882,210 native illiterates, of whom 690,117 are in the Northern States; 74,504 in the Pacific States and Territories, and 4,117,589 in the Southern States, making a grand total of 5,660,074 illiterates in the entire country. A second table shows that of every 10,000 inhabitants in the whole Union, there are 8,711 whites, 1,396 colored, 16 Chinese and 7 Indians; the colored race being in excess only in the State of Louisiana, 2,145; South Carolina, 126,147, and Mississippi, 61,305. A table showing the illiteracy of the white race and colored race gives a total of 2,879,543 of the former, and 2,763,991 of the latter. The illiteracy of the Northern States, including all persons ten years old and over, is thus compared:

	White.	Colored.
Maine	11,289	11,893
Maryland	46,772	86,703
District of Columbia	4,876	23,843
Virginia	123,558	322,296
West Virginia	71,193	9,997
Kentucky	201,077	131,050
North Carolina	191,961	265,082
Tennessee	178,727	185,941
South Carolina	55,167	235,164
Georgia	124,935	343,641
Alabama	92,059	220,808
Florida	18,904	52,894
Mississippi	48,028	264,723
Missouri	161,763	60,622
Arkansas	64,095	69,222
Louisiana	50,749	224,993
Texas	70,805	150,617
Total	1,516,339	2,671,386

The illiteracy of the sexes is compared as follows:

	Male.	Female.
Maine	9,644	9,403
New Hampshire	4,581	5,345
Vermont	3,983	8,417
Massachusetts	37,975	60,049
Rhode Island	8,681	13,220
Connecticut	12,374	17,214
New York	98,972	144,176
New Jersey	23,409	31,274
Pennsylvania	82,457	109,894
Ohio	75,248	97,901
Michigan	26,598	35,268
Indiana	53,313	73,702
Wisconsin	29,699	29,539
Illinois	49,494	74,079
Minnesota	11,254	12,809
Iowa	20,965	24,704
Nebraska	2,504	2,271
Kansas	12,391	11,949
California	15,155	11,919
Oregon	1,873	1,628
Nevada	817	157
Delaware	10,973	12,127
Maryland	61,981	75,514
District of Columbia	11,418	17,391
Virginia	172,678	254,496
West Virginia	36,584	44,906
Kentucky	157,239	174,888
North Carolina	195,692	261,702
Tennessee	183,166	201,473
South Carolina	137,246	153,085
Georgia	220,053	248,523
Alabama	181,309	231,644
Florida	34,666	37,132
Mississippi	150,984	161,767
Missouri	105,765	116,620
Arkansas	63,194	70,123
Louisiana	133,351	142,491
Texas	110,448	111,064
Total	2,608,847	3,634,687

3,634,687, of whom 2,763,991 are in the Southern States. The aggregate of minor illiterates (between ten and twenty-one years) is 2,006,-112, of whom 1,068,144 are in the Southern States. North Carolina having the largest number—222,159. Of the Northern States of minor illiterates, Ohio has the largest number—47,954.

The illiteracy of the white adults, or those qualified to vote, is thus divided among the States:

Maine	6,156	Oregon	1,085
New Hampshire	3,567	Nevada	157
Vermont	5,983

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1872.

Wanted.

Copies of the following dates of the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL, to complete our file:

Two copies March 11, 1871.
Two copies April 15, 1871.
Two copies September 30, 1871.
Two copies October 1, 1871.
Two copies November 25, 1871.

AN Iowa letter says that the Republicans of that State are preparing to move in favor of the HON. JAMES F. WILSON for President. The writer says this will not be done in a manner to give offense to other distinguished men, but to show that there is a man in Iowa eminently fit to be President, and that the Republican party will study its own interest by nominating him.

A PROJECT is on foot among the various life insurances of the country, looking to the establishment of an information bureau, the object of which is to mutually acquaint each other with all rejected applications for life insurance, with the cause of such rejection in each case. Considerable losses are said to have been from time to time incurred by pretty nearly every company in the country, from the insurance of applicants who were physically unsound, after they had been so pronounced by the medical examiners of other companies to which they had previously applied. The movement in question is for the purpose of mutual self-protection against fraudulent misrepresentations of this character, the evils resulting from which are reported to have been gradually on the increase for several years. The plan is now under consideration by the various companies, and it is said to be the general opinion that the scheme is entirely feasible, and that, while calculated to put a stop to the particular evils complained of, it will also tend to promote a better understanding and more reciprocal feeling among insurance institutions generally.

THE question of alcoholism is gradually being accepted by scientists, philosophers and legislators as one of the most important problems of the age. We have already referred to the extraordinary progress in England of a political alliance formed with the avowed object of suppressing the sale of alcoholic liquor by legal means. A remarkable document, which cannot fail to operate as a powerful auxiliary agent to the purposes of this society, has recently been signed and published by three hundred of the leading physicians of London, setting forth their belief that, while the use of alcohol is necessary in certain cases, it is prescribed by medical practitioners too generally, and with too little sense of their responsibility in the matter. They state, also, that its value as an article of diet is immensely exaggerated; and that they hold it to be the duty of every medical practitioner to exert his utmost influence in inculcating habits of great moderation in the use of alcoholic liquids; characterizing the drinking habits of the people as "one of the greatest evils of the day," and pledging themselves to the support of any wise legislation which tends to restrict within proper limits the use of alcoholic beverages. Such a paper, from such a source, should carry with it great weight.

THE specie payment bill introduced into the House last Monday is not received with much favor either in financial circles generally or by the press of the country at large, and it is not likely that it will pass. There is, of course, some difference of view with regard to the merits of the measure, but the preponderant opinion is one of opposition to it, not merely because the scheme itself is considered impracticable, but the tendency would be to place the government in an embarrassing position, but because it is considered that the laws of supply and demand are a far better regulator of matters of finance than is the government, and that any tampering with the currency by means of legislation could only be productive of results more or less disastrous in their character. The better opinion appears to be that when the country is ready for specie payment, it will come of itself, from the operation of natural agencies and without the interposition of law-making, and if it is not ready, the proposed measure would not be permanent. Twelve months ago the price of gold ranged from twenty to thirty; it is now down to eight and nine. This steady appreciation of currency value has resulted from the increasing wealth of the country and the universal confidence that exists in the intention of the government to redeem its obligations. Left to their own action, this confidence and these resources will carry paper to the value of gold more rapidly as well as more safely than any forced efforts can possibly do. This is a matter in which it is wise to let well enough alone.

IF SENATOR CARPENTER, in attacking the new plan for reforming the Civil Service, was simply trying to find out what the country thought about it, by this time he must have no doubts are removed from his mind; for from nearly every quarter of influence has he been sharply rebuked. It has moreover been made evident that General GRANT is neither shamming nor likely to be driven from his position. There is in the comments of leading Republican journals on this subject all that the President could desire to encourage him to go straight ahead. Congressional leaders, in and out of the Capitol, are given to understand, also, that they may support the reform or not, just as they please, denounce General GRANT or support him, according to their humor or interest; he is not going to waver. A step backward or even indecision now would be fatal. The tide of popular sentiment on the subject, already high, is rapidly rising, and if it is to promote his own personal fortunes were his object, scarcely ever before did such an opportunity exist—the like of it seldom occurs to a public man. The CARPENTERS in Congress either do not perceive this, or perceiving it, would deprive Gen. GRANT and the public of the necessary results of firm and intelligent action. They seem not to know or care for the fact that popular sentiment will not be cheated, and that if Gen. GRANT does not improve the opportunity some one else will,—for you can no more repress popular sentiment concerning the evils which beset the public service, and the demand for reform, than it was possible to repress public opinion when the Tammany frauds first startled the country.

WE have been waiting with not a little interest for the response of the Revenue Reformers and pronounced Free Traders to the formal proposition made to Congress by the American Industrial League, that tea and coffee be placed on the free list—that is, on the list of imported articles paying no duty. So far there has been no response whatever. The Reformers pretend to desire the manufactured articles. The duty collected from tea and coffee amounts, say, to thirty million dollars annually. There is tea and coffee in every bar of iron, pound of nails, and every article made in our country. One of the principal items of the cost of whatever is manufactured throughout the world is labor, the pay of which depends very much on the cost of living; and into the cost of living enter, with other things, tea and coffee. Now our consistent Reformers refuse to cheapen the cost of living—they don't want to cheapen the cost of production in this way. Their plan is to force labor down or wholly out of employment, by throwing open our markets to foreign competition. The naked truth is, the cry of Revenue Reform is raised directly in the interest of foreign manufacturers. They don't want to manufacture at home. If it were not so—if cheaper productions, with a preference for home interest, were the object in view, then whatever would tend to accomplish it would be accepted, and the proposition for free tea and coffee embraced. Free imported iron and other foreign productions, which can as well be made in this country, are preferred to free tea and coffee, which we do not grow, but are consumed by every man, woman and child in the land. It is difficult to conceive of an intellect so weak that cannot comprehend the bearing of the subject.

THE MASK OF HOLY HORROR.

The lives of most men and women have more or less of that that bound up within them which is secret and hidden, and whereof the world in its most prying mood knows nothing. Even the most notorious of what are recognized as public characters preserve their secret things; things that never come to light, except in the blaze of some tremendous explosion that shatters the whole fabric of conventional duplicity within which they have been concealed.

This same conventional duplicity seems to be a necessity of social life. There are few, if any, people in civilized communities who do not wilfully or involuntarily carry with them to the grave a record of deception practised on themselves and others. The number who could triumphantly pass the ordeal of being weighed, measured inside and out down to infinitesimal. Furthermore, the operation would be neither pleasant nor profitable.

Once in a while, however, some unhappy victim has to undergo the process, and it is usually the complement of a terrible catastrophe of which the motive cause is commonly divorce or death. It was death in the case of [illegible] Fisk, Jr. Open and shameless as his [illegible]ey had been, no one would ever have [illegible] lowest, blackest depth of depravity, [illegible]stol shot of STOKES pierced what [illegible] remained about it and let in upon it the full light of day. We had some glimpses of the awful skeleton in this gay and reckless joker's closet, but it was only that light which enabled us to analyze the whole hideous anatomy.

NOW, FISK ostentatiously exposed himself to public view. If ever a man lived in a glass house he did. Everybody thought they could see into every crack and cranny of it; and yet there was something in one corner invisible to all but three persons—himself, his mistress and his murderer.

When that last corner was laid bare good men and women turned their heads away; the frivolous put their hands before their faces and peeped through their fingers; the prurient eagerly gazed their unwholesome fill; the pharisaical lifted up their hands and eyes in holy horror and thanked GOD they were not as this man had been.

The innately good—and there *is* salt of the earth, spite of the sneering of the cynics—*could* not have been as he was. The frivolous might have been led—by the temptation that he had—to follow in his course. The prurient would have sneaked or rushed down the same path that led him to destruction had they possessed his shrewdness or audacity. The pharisaical, in more instances than is well to compute, would have revelled in his opportunities, if they could but have felt there was no risk of being found out.

There are others to-day, how nigh they can tell?—men of excellent standing in every relation in life, at home and abroad, among family and friends; in short in every circle where they are acquainted or received. All is pure and bright with them on the surface while they live, and ninety-nine hundredths of them are believed to be worthy of the encomiastic sermons that are preached at their funerals. But there has been a taint upon them, of which only themselves and the soiled ones whom they sought in secret knew. They have been and are as licentious as FISK, without FISK's bravado to brazen it out before their fellow men. And it is among this class that, except in the company of a few confidential cronies of their own kidney, the worst symptoms of holy horror have displayed themselves. Well, it is better, after all, that hideous deformity should wear a mask. Public morality is best promoted by keeping the sores that fester near it out of sight.

AN INTERESTING SYNOD.

One of the most important acts of M. THIERS's Administration is probably his recent decree which provides for a meeting of the Reformed Church of France in a national synod. The Free Church of France is most familiarly known on this side of the Atlantic as the organized representative of French Protestantism, as delegates from its synod have more than once visited the Presbyterian churches of America. Some readers may not even know that a large majority of the French Protestants are not willing to go with the Free Church but with the National Church, which is recognized and aided by the State. The last synod of the National Church met in 1659, and held its sessions during two months, its moderator being DAILLE, so distinguished for his writings, especially for his book on "The Right Use of the Fathers." When it adjourned, it adjourned to meet again in three years, but as its meeting always depended on the good pleasure of a Papist King, the members, no doubt, felt that their future assembly was a matter of some uncertainty. Though only seven years before this memorable meeting, that is in 1652, LOUIS XIV., then King of France, had solemnly confirmed the edict of NANTZ, by which HENRY IV. had granted toleration and many privileges to his Protestant subjects, they knew well that his majesty regarded them with little favor. Hence they were never permitted to meet again in Synod, and worse things than any such deprivation awaited them. By the revocation of the Edict of Nantz in 1685, fifty thousand Protestant families, the most ingenious and industrious portion of the population, were driven into banishment, and the Protestants who remained in the country were objects of persecution until the Revolution. Under the first NAPOLEON the National Church was again legally recognized, and its right to hold Synods, "with the consent of the chief of the State," was conceded. But M. THIERS happens to be the first chief of the State who has ever been willing to permit a Protestant Synod to assemble. As a consequence of the failure of the Synod to meet, the French National Church has remained without a Confession of Faith, or any general and uniform system of ecclesiastical discipline, and as a result of these defects, as they are called by many, the teaching of its pulpits has been marked by great varieties of doctrine, while many abuses are alleged to exist which call for the intervention of authority. For many years the Free Church has been the [illegible] Rationalism and irregularities of the National Church; and the National Church has in some instances become the refuge of teachers whose opinions had become too liberal or too broad to afford satisfaction in the congregations of the more orthodox church. It is, however, claimed by the advocates of a conformity to the National Church that Orthodoxy is still in the ascendant, and that the rationalists and heretics of different grades form a rather inconsiderable minority, and it is confidently anticipated that when the Synod meets "it will almost without doubt adopt an orthodox confession, and organize the National Church on an evangelical basis." This view seems justified by the apprehensions with which the rationalistic portion of the body regard the advance to the action of the Synod. Some of them did all in their power to prevent the Chief of the State from giving his consent to the convocation, and they make no secret of their opinion that when the Church was getting on so comfortably without a Synod, it was foolish to desire its action. M. THIERS also confesses the concern for the "repose of souls with which he anticipates the religious controversies" to which the proceedings of the Synod may give rise. When the members of the Protestant Consistory called on the President lately to thank him for issuing the necessary decree, the old statesman talked to them in a strain which it is touching to read. He declared that he was "penetrated with the most profound respect for the human conscience, and that he would steadfastly endeavor to maintain religious liberty in all its integrity." "An immense majority" of the French Protestants had asked him to convoke the Synod, and "he could not help yielding to the request." And then he implored them to think of the condition of France, and of its need of repose, confirming them in allow religious divisions to be added to the political divisions by which it has been incessantly distracted. Claiming no influence over their religious convictions, THIERS closed by offering them any assistance in his power to aid them in the accomplishment of their "mission of peace." A gentle and graceful hint, which may not be without effect, but time will show.

A MEMBER of the New York Assembly has introduced a bill looking to the establishment of a free banking system for the whole State, sustained by a small *per capita* tax, to be assessed upon the citizens of such localities as may choose to adopt the plan. Such a system is in operation in Massachusetts, where it has proved itself not only practicable, but also eminently successful. In *over fifty cities and* towns in that State the scheme has been introduced, with, it is said, results of the most beneficial character, while new libraries are constantly forming all over the State at a rate which promises in a few years to establish one in every village and hamlet throughout the Commonwealth. The only doubtful feature of the plan, when first suggested, was as to the safety of loaning books to the people. This question, however, has been very thoroughly and satisfactorily answered. The public library of Boston contains upwards of 100,000 volumes, which are accessible from ten to fifteen hours a day, and of which about one-fourth are subject to the order of any one who desires to take them home, upon the single condition that the applicant shall give the names of two citizens as references. The Superintendent of the Library, in his last report, says that out of 218,677 issues, only twenty volumes were lost during the entire year, while the general testimony of the officers of these institutions throughout the State is to the same effect. Whether a free distribution of books can be made among the people with safety, is therefore definitely settled. The only remaining question is, as to the public value and usefulness of the system. This point we have before spoken of—indeed, the possibilities of good which inhere in the system are so manifest, that not a word need be said respecting them. Other States and cities beside New York are also moving in the matter, and it would seem that the subject is worthy the consideration of our own legislators.

Pre-eminently Good.

(From the Cambria (Ebensburg) Herald.)

We refer our readers to the prospectus of the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL in another part of this paper. The COMMERCIAL is so pre-eminently good that we deem it unnecessary to say anything in its praise. We wouldn't do without it.

A poor man, for many years driver of the Halifax, N. S., city prison wagon, the other day received authentic information that his father and brother have recently died, leaving him two hundred thousand pounds invested in a bank in Dublin, and seven thousand pounds available cash in the hands of a brother and the executors, and three steamships.

WONDER-LAND.

The Marvels of the Upper Yellowstone—The Home of the Physical Forces—The Cradle of the Great Rivers—Beauty and Grandeur—Nature in her Wierd Moods.

One of the most interesting and valuable papers ever published concerning the wonderland embraced in the mountain regions of Montana and the valley of the Yellowstone river, is the report which Col. Barlow, of the United States Engineers, has just made to Gen. Sheridan, of a seven weeks' exploration among its stupendous mountains, canons, caverns and waterfalls, performed in the summer of last year. The exploration was undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the sources of the Yellowstone, the party consisting of seventeen persons. The strange and curious freaks of nature encountered by the expedition on its progress are almost too extraordinary for words to describe.

Before getting fairly into the enchanted ground the party came across a boiling hot torrent of water, pouring out of a mountain, probably the outlet of a vast subterranean reservoir which supplied the large system of boiling springs on the mountain's side above; near which steaming river were a number of hot mineral springs, beside which a party of invalids from the Eastern States had formed a camp for the purpose of testing their healing qualities.

The party then passed into a region of hot soda springs of marvelous beauty, flowing from the top and sides of a hill of calcareous deposit, occupying an area of over a hundred acres, the upper surface of which was a plain composed of innumerable springs which constantly sent up volumes of vapor impregnated with sulphurous fumes, while the sides of the hill, down which the waters flowed, had become beautifully terraced into steps of regular height and width, as if carved out by man with the utmost artistic care.

Passing on by cascade and canon, geyser and volcano, the expedition ascended into the mountain region, from which a magnificent view of the Yellowstone valley was obtained, with its mountain ranges stretching away in the distance southward to the limit of vision; also of the country lying west toward the Gallatin river. Grass and flowers covered the hillsides, interspersed with occasional groves of balsam, cedar and spruce. High cones of volcanic origin were seen in many directions, some of them fully fifty miles distant.

Descending the mountain, the party continued its circuit towards the north and east, soon encountering another canon as wild and precipitous as the one previously discovered, and affording still more beautiful scenery. A clear cut, hundreds of feet in depth, through the mountain's base allowed the passage of a small stream, which, about midway, rolled down a slightly inclined and rocky slope, then spread out into a pretty cascade of a hundred feet in height. More desperate climbing followed, when an elevated plateau was reached, the next side to the east had at some time dropped off, leaving a sheer precipice of seven or eight thousand feet in height, which made the coolest heads dizzy to look upon.

On still further to the canon of the Yellowstone, whose walls are composed of volcanic conglomerate, capped with basaltic columns. Many *pinnacles* remain, towering hundreds of feet in height, having about the proportions of an ordinary sewing needle. In many places below are observed steam jets rising from near the river's edge; indications of sulphur deposit are very numerous, while back from the river, to the east, the country rises rapidly, and soon becomes extremely rugged; high, barren peaks are seen rising one above another, far off to the east and south. Col. Barlow ascended to this range to a height of nine thousand feet above the sea, and judged that many peaks beyond were a thousand or fifteen hundred feet higher.

Next came a beautifully undulating country, covered with rich verdure and decked with wild flowers of every hue, many of them unknown in the Eastern States, although the elevation is so great (7,000 feet) that frosts occur every night during the year. Yet the vegetation does not seem to suffer from these summer frosts, the effect upon grass and flowers being apparently but that of dew.

Passing again into the mountains, whose summits were composed of broken masses of volcanic rock, apparently leveled down by the force of the wind, which sweeps with terrible violence over those elevated regions, the Yellowstone lake, although thirty miles distant, seemed 66 lie directly at the explorer's feet; while the valley of the Yellowstone, also following the general direction of the mountain chain to the east, a stern, volcanic range of sharp peaks, many of them having the form of Egyptian pyramids, though, of course, of much greater magnitude.

[illegible] or canon, two thousand feet deep, without vegetation or soil, and afterwards passing through leagues of pine forest and by streams which filled the atmosphere with an intense odor of sulphur, the party arrived at the falls of the Yellowstone. Of these Colonel Barlow says:

"There are two falls. The upper has a sheer descent of 115 feet, and the other, half a mile below, falls from the crest of a vertical precipice 250 feet into the grand canon. The beauty of the upper fall and the grandeur of the lower one are well worth a journey. For several hundred yards before reaching the brink of the upper fall, the river descends over a series of cascades. The solid rocks on either side converge, and the river channel is narrowed to about 80 feet. The velocity of the current becomes intense. At the crest of the fall the whole volume of water is projected outward, and separated at once into conical masses of foam. These soon lose their individuality and gradually blend together, forming a dense white column, which descending, spreads out at the bottom with unparalleled grace and beauty. At the foot of this fall there is a recession of the wall, which finds its beginning in a beautiful wooded gorge, between two and three hundred feet in depth. The river flows swiftly, though smoothly, over a rocky bed, to the crest of the lower fall half a mile below. It then emerges from between its rocky banks, and makes the prodigious leap of three hundred and fifty feet into the depths of the great canon, where it rushes away in a perfect torrent over innumerable cascades and ripples, causing eddies and whirlpools, which would dash to atoms any unlucky adventurer who should be so unfortunate as to find himself engulfed in its waters. The walls of the canon are composed of soft, disintegrating rock, the predominant color being yellow, intermixed with various shades of green and red. The rocks are constantly crumbling down, leaving steep ridges and sharp pinnacles, hundreds of feet in height, standing out from the walls."

Near this region was an extensive brimstone basin, containing a large number of mineral springs, one of which gave intermittent pulsations, like a steam engine, giving off immense quantities of steam, which issued forth with the roar of a hurricane. These were in reality steam volcanoes, and deep vibrations in the subterranean caverns, extending far beneath the hill, could be distinctly heard.

At last the party reached Yellowstone Lake, a beautiful sheet of water 7,500 feet above the sea, nestling among the snow-peaks of the highest mountain range on the North American continent.

"The rim of this lake basin is composed of a mountain chain varying from nine to eleven thousand feet in height above the sea, and inclosing an area of about 1,400 square miles. Beyond this rim the water slopes down in all directions, and furnish the sources of the principal rivers of the continent. Four of the most important tributaries of the Missouri, namely, the Big Horn, the Yellowstone, the Madison and the Gallatin, carry the melting snows from these mountains northward, and then through the Mississippi valley to the Gulf of Mexico, more than 3,500 miles. The Snake river, having its sources actually intermingled with those of the Yellowstone and Madison, traverses in the westward course nearly a thousand miles before it mingles its waters with those of the Columbia, on its way to the Pacific Ocean; while the Green river, rising but a few miles from the sources of the others, seeks the deserts of the Colorado, and after innumerable windings in those deep canons, at length, after a course of fifteen hundred miles, reaches the Pacific through the waters of the Gulf of California."

The lake is very irregular in outline, and is about twenty miles across. The water is cool and pure. At this elevation the thermometer descends nightly from six to ten degrees below the freezing point, and yet the morning's sun melts the frost-work on the most delicate flowers, without causing their bloom to fade or their leaves to wither.

The party next visited the valley of the Geysers and mud volcanoes. Some of these latter are in constant ebullition, puffing and throwing up masses of parti-colored mud, and sending forth dense columns of steam hundreds of feet in the air. The geysers themselves, which are countless in number, range in size from a mere point to a hundred feet in diameter. Some of them have regular periods of activity, throwing up shafts of water in some cases to the height of over a hundred feet, while others seem to be constantly active, but eject water only a few feet above the surface. The water from these geysers is nearly pure though holding in solution silicates of lime and magnesia, which are slowly deposited at the craters in beautiful bead-like drops, in every conceivable variety of arrangement. One, called the great comet geyser, Col. Barlow says, threw a steady stream, very graceful and perfectly vertical, to the height of more than two hundred feet. The basins of these geysers are described as exquisitely beautiful. Some of them are lined with delicate deposit of rock, almost as white and fine as alabaster, while others are of various color, or vermillion, scarlet, purple, green, blue, amethyst—embracing among them all the colors of the rainbow. The temperatures of a number of them were taken, the average being about 160 degrees. The lowest temperature was 128 degrees, and the highest 190 degrees. Col. Barlow says that in the exquisite tracey of these deposits the lacemaker might find designs for his most elegant fabrics.

Close to this Geyser basin the explorers discovered a lake of hot water a hundred by two hundred feet, whose outlet was a porcelain channel of variegated colors, varying from bright saffron to deep vermillion. The middle waters of this remarkable lake were of ultramarine blueness, while its consecutive rings included nearly every imaginable color—green, yellow, orange and dazzling red.

Around several of these geysers the branches, cones and needles of fallen pine trees were completely incrusted with a rich coating of mineral-like frosted silver, fast becoming petrified, the wood already having partially changed into stone; while the trunks of others still standing were, for several feet from the ground, denuded of bark and incrusted with a perfectly white deposit of calcareous rock.

From observations which he made on the march, and from information derived from the packers who accompanied him, Col. Barlow is convinced that a practicable road, perhaps a railroad, can be constructed from the Yellowstone lake south to Snake river, and thinks it not impossible that a route for a railroad connecting the Union and Northern Pacific lines by way of the Yellowstone and Wind rivers, may be found. This would bring the wonderful region in question close to our very doors. Meanwhile it is even now quite as easy of access as the Jungfrau Alps, and it is likely that the report of Col. Barlow, adding, as it does, so much that is new and fascinating to the knowledge already possessed concerning this extraordinary region, will have the effect of considerably increasing the summer travel of tourists in that direction.

UNTIL a very recent date, the immense region of country lying between the ninety-seventh meridian of West longitude and the Rocky Mountains was regarded as an uninhabitable desert, of not the slightest economic value, either as a pastoral or agricultural domain. Recent experiments, however, instituted for the purpose of testing its productive capacity and resources, show that this apparently arid and sterile waste is destined at no distant period to become an exceedingly valuable agricultural and pastoral territory. During the past three years numerous experiments have been made with grain, grasses, trees, &c., at different points, with results of the most favorable character. Excellent yields of wheat, rye, sweet potatoes, Indian corn, sorghum, lucerne, timothy, clover and Hungarian grass have been obtained; while trees of nearly all kinds, fruit-bearing and otherwise, whether transplanted or produced from seed or from cuttings, have done remarkably well; quite equaling, it is said, the ordinary growth of nurseries. These experiments have all been made without irrigation, the only moisture being that possibly growing trees and plants depending on the rainfall, without the agency of artificial moisture. The leading interests of these plains, after reclamation, will be cattle, horses and sheep; but it is quite important to know that the settler may grow his own timber, adorn his homestead with shrubbery, fill his yards with nutritious fodder, and produce grains and other food required for his family and stock, without being compelled to resort to the costly processes of artificial watering. The practicability of the growth of remunerative crops over nearly the whole of this vast district, is now fully conceded by those who have studied the climate and resources of the country, and it is probable that the increasing population of the United States will within a comparatively few years carry with its Westward movement the spread of settlements and civilization over the principal portion of this hitherto forbidding and avoided "Great American Desert."

FOSTER BLODGETT has flanked his enemies at last. There are reasons for believing that this somewhat notorious public personage had been selected for prosecution quite as much in the character of a scape-goat of ex-Governor BULLOCK and other parties who left the State while grave criminal charges were pending against them, as for any solution of the laws on his own part. It is also pretty well known that whatever acts were done by him to the public injury during his management of the Georgia State Railroad, were performed under the direction of ex-Governor BULLOCK, and did not result to his pecuniary benefit. So much, indeed, has been admitted by BULLOCK himself since his flight from the State. Considering, however, the charges which he seemed to have convicted in the Courts on the indictments for larceny found and pending against him, and the utter improbability of procuring a pardon under a Democratic State Administration, BLODGETT, a few days prior to the inauguration of Governor SMITH, applied to acting Governor CONLEY for a full and unconditional pardon for the alleged offenses for which he had not been tried, and which, as the official acts of the Governor was the issue of the [illegible] in question. The troubles of BLODGETT are therefore now at an end, and for the first time in two years he knows what it is to walk abroad without fear of arrest, imprisonment or criminal prosecution. We trust it is to be hoped he may profit by the grace shown him, and refuse hereafter to become the tool of any man or clique, even should a seat in the United States Senate be promised as the reward of his compliance.

CONSIDERABLE curiosity is naturally manifested in New York and elsewhere as to the possible line of defense which the counsel for TWEED will pursue when the case comes to trial. While no clue to the course has yet been given, there are some reasons for supposing that the first point urged will be that FISK did not die of the wound inflicted by STOKES, but from lack of medical care; and that an attempt will be made to show that the perforation of the intestines was caused by the bullet, but by a medical instrument during the process of probing. Second; that the killing was justifiable homicide; that FISK himself was armed, and was actually in search of STOKES, and that it was a mere chance that the former was shot instead of the latter. Third; that the act was one of justifiable insanity, or mania produced by the course of FISK toward STOKES, whose hopeless and ruined condition, it will be argued, had crazed him.

CONSIDERING that the tobacco lands of Virginia are reported by their owners to be every year growing poorer and less productive, the fact that the total collections in the State of Virginia for tobacco, since March 1, 1869, to December 1, 1870, amounted to $11,472,557 16, being an excess of $9,998,733 40, more than was collected under the previous administration for forty-four months prior to March 1, 1869, under a tax on plug tobacco one-fifth greater than the present rate, in addition to the taxes paid at the factory door, through the purchase by the manufacturer of the proper stamps, may perhaps be taken as constructive evidence that honesty and efficiency have had more or less to do with it.

THE change which is taking place in the main current and channel of the Mississippi river from the wharf at St. Louis to the opposite side of the river, carries with it a considerable sediment of perplexity. The river at that point is the boundary between Missouri and Illinois, and the Louis undertakes to construct artificial obstructions to disturb the current and bring the channel back to the Missouri side, East St. Louis, on the Illinois side, may go to work to counteract these efforts, and there is no telling where the war may end. The matter will probably have to be regulated by Congress.

MISSIONARY effort does not always tend in one direction. Occasionally those who go forth to turn others from the error of their ways unaccountably get turned themselves. Thus, for instance, an enthusiastic Unitarian minister departed some time since for British India, intent on converting to a better faith the infatuated devotees of Juggernauth. Imagine the consternation of the Society that sent him out on learning that he has recently embraced the religion of Brahma and has joined a church of that denomination in Bengal. He was known as the Rev. C. H. Dall, and he declares the change is as sincere as it was involuntary.

THE following story is said to be authentic: A citizen of the United States having business in connection with the Alabama arbitration, in a recent conversation at Geneva with Chief Justice Cockburn, said, in answer to a remark from his lordship that he hoped the case would not last long: "Well, Sir, I guess you will find that this snake has the very longest tail you ever saw unwinded in your life." The Lord Chief Justice, it is said, thought of his unhappy brother, Chief Justice Bovell, of the Common Pleas, who is trying the Tichborne case, and sighed audibly.

THE Postoffice of a Long Island village having last week been broken open by burglars, the Postmaster determined to punish them should they make another attempt. On the following night, therefore, he set a trap-gun in such a manner that any one entering the building without certain precautions would receive the contents of the weapon in his body. After making all preparations, he retired, but returned for something, forgot his trap, and, on entering the door, received the full charge in his lower limbs, dying about two hours afterwards.

THE Prussian Minister of Public Works has ordered that all railway carriages of every class shall be warned by stoves that cannot be opened, burst or broken; the fuel for which is a chemically prepared compressed charcoal. The railway horrors by fire in this country would be apt to make a great many people wish for some kind of public officer who might be endowed with the same beneficent authority.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Construction in the United States.

Pennsylvania's Progress for the Year

Convention of Railroad Men in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, January 17.—An adjourned railroad meeting from December 18th was held here yesterday, its object being to form a permanent association for the interchange of ideas which would tend to greater efficiency in railroad management and the promotion of railroad interests throughout the west. Some three companies in the West and Canada were represented. Thomas Allen, of the Iron Mountain road, presided.

In the course of a few remarks Mr. Allen said more scientific light was needed in the detail of railroad conduct. He thought the Legislatures had a desire to place roads under more rigid police regulations, and pay less attention to their chartered rights than they have a right to do. He suggested that all cases where a tax is levied on roads be carried to the United States Supreme Court. In regard to accidents, he thought the law should be changed, and in suits for personal damages he believed in the English policy of holding the individual alone responsible for damages done.

A constitution was adopted, which designates the association as the Western and Southern Railway Association. No one except presidents, general managers, superintendents or the officers in charge of the operating of railways shall be members of the Association. The object of the Association is the promotion and advancement of railway interests, by the interchange of views and ideas, and by comparison of experience, thereby securing greater efficiency and economy in their operation, and for the adoption of such rules and regulations as will most effectually carry out the purpose herein expressed. The annual meetings are to be held on the second Tuesday in January, in the city of St. Louis, and stated meetings on the second Tuesday in April, July and October, the places of meetings, except the annual one, to be appointed by the Association at each annual meeting; and special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee. The usual officers and an Executive Committee of five are provided for. The question of passes was discussed at some length, a report finally adopted which recognized the system of reciprocal passes to officers of roads; half fare to clergymen having congregations along the line of the road; passes for charitable purposes; no return passes for stock attendants, and no telegraph passes. Steamboat interchange passes ignored.

The Convention elected the following officers of the Association formed: President—Thos. Allen, President Iron Mountain Railroad; Vice President—H. Fink, General Superintendent of Louisville and Nashville Railroad; Secretary and Treasurar—J. H. Sheldon, General Superintendent of the Gilman, Clinton and Springfield Railroad; Executive Committee—J. L. Fleming, General Superintendent Mobile and Ohio Railroad; A. Mitchell, General Superintendent Illinois Central; W. R. Arthur, General Superintendent of North Missouri; J. C. McMullen, General Superintendent Chicago and Alton; G. W. Nettleton, Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad.

Atlanta, Georgia, was selected as the next place of meeting, on the first Tuesday of April. The Executive Committee was directed to appoint a committee of three each to report at a future meeting, on the following subjects: first, some plan for abolishing the custom of paying commission on sales of tickets; second, the best means of bringing about the total abolition of the pass system; third, interchange and proper charges for cars, including repairs of foreign cars; fourth, maintenance of agreed rates; fifth, question of employment of discharged employees by other lines; sixth, question of responsibility of railroad companies for injuries to employees of others.

The President was directed to apply to Congress for a charter for the Association, and the Secretary directed to send a circular to the various railroad companies in this country and Canada, inviting them to become members of the Association.

The members then signed the Constitution, after which they adjourned. During the morning the members witnessed a test of the Goodale steam brake on the Missouri and Pacific road.

The Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Kentucky Road.

WHEELING, W. VA., January 17.—The subscription of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars by this county to the Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Kentucky Railroad, recently authorized by a vote, was declared valid by the Supervisors on Tuesday. The City Council has granted this road free right of way into the city. The Council has asked the Legislature to authorize the city to subscribe three hundred thousand dollars to the projected road from Wheeling to Cincinnati, the charter of a company to build a railroad bridge over the Ohio at this point, to be used by all railroads coming to the city from that side of the river. A bill will be presented to the Legislature to authorize the city to subscribe five hundred thousand dollars and the county three hundred thousand dollars to aid in building it.

[The railway news given below was printed in a portion only of our city edition yesterday morning.—ED. COM.]

Railroad Construction in the United States.

[From the Railroad Gazette.]

The activity in construction during the year, as the figures show unmistakably, has been in extraordinary. The total mileage added to the railroad system of the country was 6,083 miles.

The most accurate statement of the mileage of the railroads of the United States at the close of 1870 (that given by *Poor's Manual of Railroads*), fixes the amount at 53,369 miles. This gives 60,382 miles of railroad in the United States at the present time, the increase during the past year having been 7,013 miles. The same authority shows the increase in 1870 to have been 6,145, and in 1879 4,999 miles. The percentage of increase in 1870 was very nearly 12½ per cent.

The following tabulated statement of the railroad progress of the United States shows at a glance the total mileage at the end of the year and the increase for each year. We take it from *Poor's Manual*, adding our own figures for 1871:

Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase Mileage.	Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase Mileage.
1830	23	23	1851	10,982	1,479
1831	95	72	1852	12,908	1,926
1832	229	134	1853	15,360	2,452
1833	380	151	1854	16,720	1,360
1834	633	253	1855	18,374	1,654
1835	1,098	465	1856	22,011	3,637
1836	1,273	175	1857	24,503	2,492
1837	1,497	224	1858	26,968	2,465
1838	1,843	346	1859	28,789	1,821
1839	2,302	459	1860	30,635	1,846
1840	2,818	516	1861	31,286	651
1841	3,535	717	1862	33,170	884
1842	4,026	491	1863	35,174	2,004
1843	4,185	159	1864	33,908	738
1844	4,377	192	1865	35,085	1,177
1845	4,623	246	1866	37,017	1,932
1846	4,930	307	1867	39,244	2,227
1847	5,599	669	1868	42,229	3,033
1848	5,996	397	1869	46,850	4,621
1849	7,365	1,369	1870	53,369	6,145
1850	9,021	1,656	1871	60,382	6,983

The following is a table of the miles of railroad completed in 1871 in the several States and Territories:

Maine	106	Arkansas	37
New Hampshire	64	Kentucky	142
Vermont	83	Ohio	174
Massachusetts	117	Michigan	478
Connecticut	196	Indiana	140
New York	548	Illinois	962
New Jersey	160	Wisconsin	514
Pennsylvania	364	Minnesota	451
Maryland	118	Iowa	461
Virginia	49	Nebraska	210
West Virginia	98	Missouri	508
North Carolina	15	Kansas	370
South Carolina	80	Indian Territory	124
Georgia	95	Colorado	76
Florida	12	Nevada	16
Alabama	173	Washington Territory	25
Louisiana	55	Oregon	55
Texas	205	California	99

By this it appears that the increase in New England was 560 miles; in the Middle Atlantic States, 872 miles; in the Southern Atlantic States (Maryland to Georgia inclusive), 422 miles; in the Gulf States, 447 miles; in the Southern Central States (Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky), 1,401 miles; in the Northern Central States (Ohio, Michigan and Indiana), 992 miles; in the Northwestern States (including all the other States east of the Rocky Mountains), 1,146 miles; in the Territories, 225 miles; in the Pacific States, 170 miles.

Taking the figures for the beginning of 1871 from *Poor's Manual* again, we have the following as the mileage of each State and Territory at the beginning of the year 1871 and 1872:

States and Territories.	Area in sq'uare miles, 1871.	Mileage, 1871.	Mileage, 1872.
1. Maine	31,766	748	872
2. New Hampshire	9,280	736	800
3. Vermont	10,212	614	699
4. Massachusetts	7,800	1,480	1,597
5. Rhode Island	1,306	136	136
6. Connecticut	4,674	742	932
7. New York	47,000	3,928	4,276
8. New Jersey	8,320	1,125	1,285
9. Pennsylvania	46,000	4,656	5,020
10. Delaware	2,120	224	224
11. Maryland	11,184	671	786
12. Columbia, District of	60	....	....
13. West Virginia	23,000	387	485
14. Virginia	40,904	1,455	1,594
15. North Carolina	50,704	1,178	1,193
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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, January 20, 1872.

THE LOCAL OPTION LAW.

The Decisions Affecting its Constitutionality.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph*, now that the question of Local Option is again revived in certain portions of the State, and will probably be introduced into the Legislature this winter, calls attention to the fact that some twenty-six years ago a law almost similar was passed, and declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The act alluded to was passed in 1846, and authorized the citizens of the various wards, boroughs and townships, in Allegheny and other counties named, to vote annually "for" or "against" the sale of liquors, and such sale to be prohibited or continued as the majority might decide; and wherever a majority in any ward, borough or township voted against the sale of liquors, the Court of Quarter Sessions was prohibited from granting any license to sell therein, either to wholesale or retail dealers. The case in the Supreme Court, to which reference is made above, is that of Parker vs. The Commonwealth. It arose in Pittsburgh, in this way: Under the operations of the law of 1846, the Fourth ward of this city, in which Mr. Parker kept a liquor store, voted against the sale of liquors for the ensuing year. Mr. Parker continued to sell and was convicted in the Quarter Sessions. The case was tried by Messrs. Forward and Allen for the Commonwealth, and M'Candless and Wood for the defendant. After conviction and judgment, the case was taken to the Supreme Court, and ably argued at the September term of 1846, when Judge Bell rendered an elaborate opinion, in which he held that "under the constitution of Pennsylvania, legislative power must be exercised by the Legislature created by the constitution. Hence the act of 1846, giving the citizens of certain counties the power to decide by a vote whether the sale of vinous or spirituous liquors should be continued within such counties, and imposing a penalty for the sale of such liquors where a majority of the votes had been against such sale, is unconstitutional and void." The opinion is found in 6 Barr, 507. Justices Gibson and Rogers concurred with Judge Bell, while Justices Burnside and Coulter dissented. The opinion does not touch the principle of total prohibition, but by inference concedes that power to the Legislature.

The Legislature has repeatedly delegated to the people the power to determine by ballot certain things, and by the votes of the majority to decide whether or not force and validity should be given to certain laws. Such course has frequently been pursued in regard to the erection of new districts, or the changing of municipal boundaries. Subscriptions on the part of cities, and counties to railroad corporations have been legalized by the popular vote. The most recent delegation of this species of power was contained in that clause of the consolidation act which authorized the citizens of Allegheny, and adjacent districts to determine by ballot whether or not they should consolidate with the city of Pittsburgh.

A distinction, therefore, has been made as to the kind of power which the Legislature may and may not delegate to the people. In the case of the Local Option law, which was in the Quarter Sessions of Lebanon county, tried subsequent to the Parker case, we find the following syllabus: "Where a new township was erected by the Court, out of an old one, an act of the General Assembly giving to the qualified voters of the said township the right and power to decide by ballot whether the new township should be continued or annulled is valid and constitutional. The decision in Parker vs. Commonwealth settled nothing more than that the General Assembly could not delegate to the people a power to enact laws by a mere act of the ballot, affecting the property and binding the political and social rights of the citizens. But the erection of a township, or the creation of a new district for municipal purposes, is an incidence in the transaction of the public business, is in no degree similar to the exercise of law-making power, and is simply the exercise of sovereignty; the other, in its very nature, a subordinate function."

Whether the principles here laid down would be affirmed by the Supreme Court now, is a question for the consideration of those versed in constitutional law.

OBITUARY.

The Rev. John B. Clark, D. D.

The Rev. John B. Clark, D. D., pastor of the Second United Presbyterian Church, of Allegheny, died on Saturday morning at six o'clock, at his residence on Stockton avenue. Dr. Clark was born near Cadiz, Ohio, in 1827, being the only son of Matthew Clark, a farmer. In 1842 he entered Franklin College, at Athens, Ohio, and subsequently pursued a theological course at Canonsburg, near Washington, and Anderson. Having been licensed to preach about the year 1851, he located at Detroit, and through his efforts mainly the United Presbyterian Church in that city, now in charge of the Rev. J. P. Scott, was established. In 1853 he was installed as pastor of the Associate Presbyterian Church in Canonsburg, Pa., where he remained for some time. About this time he was joined in marriage to Miss Collins. In 1859 he was called to the Second United Presbyterian Church of Allegheny, the former pastor, Dr. Rogers, having been compelled to resign on account of the infirmities of age. Dr. Clark soon became widely known as a popular preacher, and his congregation, under his ministry rapidly increased in numbers. When he took charge of the church, the membership was two hundred and fifty. The church now numbers eight hundred and thirty members, showing an increase of nearly six hundred during his ministry, a period of eleven years. His wife, who had been an invalid for a period of several years, died in 1867, leaving no children.

When the war broke out, Dr. Clark warmly espoused the Union cause, and following the example of many other minister enlisted in defense of his country. He soon organized the One Hundred and Ninety-third regiment, composed almost entirely of citizens of Allegheny, for the three months' service, and started out with his command. Returning in August, 1862, he again entered the army in the nine months' service, as Colonel of the One Hundred and Twenty-third regiment, almost all the members of which had formerly connected with the One Hundred and Ninety-third. His regiment arrived a few hours too late to participate in the battle of Antietam, but rendered gallant service at Fredericksburg. He was mustered out with his regiment in 1863, but subsequently enlisted a regiment of "emergency men," and remained in the service for one hundred days as Colonel of the same. When his regiment was stationed at Wilmington, Delaware, he was appointed Military commander of that place.

On his discharge from the service, he resumed his pastoral duties, and labored with his wonted energy and zeal, until within a few months since, when he was attacked with the disease which culminated in his death. He was married last summer to an estimable lady, who nursed him with unceasing devotion during his illness. He had the best medical attendance, of both the allopathic and homeopathic schools, but his case was one of those duplication of diseases—baffled the most scientific treatment.

Dr. Clark was an earnest and eloquent preacher, and was possessed of more than ordinary powers as a speaker. He was warm in his attachments, generous in his impulses, and maintained in the highest degree the respect and confidence of his congregation. He was held in like estimation by his regiment while in the army, and in this regard exhibited a personal magnetism which was remarkable. He was a leading minister of his denomination, and held numerous positions of trust in the body. He was Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Freedmen's Missions from its organization in 1864 until 1870, and was Moderator of the General Assembly during the session of 1865. He took an active interest in all the enterprises of the day, and was liberal and progressive in his views. He was a warm friend of the common school cause, and served for several years as a member of the Local Board of his ward, and was for some time President of the Board of School Controllers of the city. Having become prematurely gray, Dr. Clark had the appearance of age in the decline of life, but he was really in its prime, being in his forty-fourth year. He dies sincerely lamented by thousands in the community.

SHOCKING DEATH

From the Effects of Whisky.

Mrs. Celia O'Connor, residing in a filthy basement room on Fifth avenue, near Magee street, was found dead at five o'clock Saturday morning. The Coroner was notified, and an inquest developed the fact that the woman had been drinking liquor almost incessantly for the past three months; that she drank heavily on Friday night last, retiring to bed with her son, aged about eleven years; that at four o'clock in the morning she was seized with a mad fit, dragged the little boy from the bed and drove him out of the house. He went to the house of some friends in one of the upper wards, and in an hour after revisited his miserable abode, in company with a friend, and found his mother dead. She sat on the floor with her feet to the grate, and her head resting against the side of the bed. The room presented a scene of the most squalid poverty and wretchedness. Not a mouthful of food, and not a decent article of clothing or furniture, could be seen. Dirt and filth met the eye at all points. The woman was thirty-five years of age and had been twice married. Her second husband, O'Connor, is said to have been murdered on his way to the army, during the rebellion. A daughter, who is now living in New Orleans, and the little boy above mentioned, are the only children. The doctor who made the *post mortem* examination testified that the drink enough in liquor to kill her without congestion setting in, and the jury found a verdict of death from intemperance. The daughter, who is only seventeen, was ruined by the example of her mother, and the boy had been compelled to steal and beg in order to gratify her passion for whisky.

Journalism of the Future.

In the January number of *Old and New*, Edward Everett Hale predicts that five years hence the literary journal for which and from which there is most to be hoped, will be one not destined for what please to call themselves the literary classes, and that the progress of news paper publication in point of frequency, will by that time bring us into the era of the hourly press. He says: "It need surprise nobody to see the next great typical 'enterprising journalist' establishing a periodical whose successive issues shall appear punctually every hour, twenty-four times a day, without any intermission for nights, Sundays or holidays. The first will fail, as the first penny paper did; but the second or third will make a great fortune and a great reputation.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY, January 17, 1872.

The telegraphic reports from Harrisburg announce a bill authorizing the issue of $125,000 city of Pittsburgh bonds, to bear interest not exceeding 7 per cent. We understand this loan to be for the purpose of taking up the bonds now matured and presented for redemption. They are to be free from *county* and *city* taxes. The Judiciary Committee declined to exempt any more municipal loans from taxation for *State* purposes, as they wish to be able, if in the future there shall be any such need, to report all these loans as among the assets of the State.

The Water Loan Extension Bonds and those issued under the provisions of the Penn Avenue act are the only loans of the city that are fully exempt from the liability to State tax, and cannot, therefore, fail to take a higher stand in the market than the new city 7s. The list of judgments entered on the docket for the week is unusually heavy, footing over $75,000. Pittsburgh and Connellsville 7s are quoted on the Baltimore Board at 87.

—In New York the power, influence and capital of the street seems to be fully enlisted in favor of a rising stock market, and while holding this position the current is all one way. It is idle, under such circumstances to argue upon intrinsic values. It is but time lost to warn people against speculating at prices which seem high to prudent men. The tide is setting that way, and bears along upon its surface all that can float, whether seaworthy or not, and we feel like saying to the Bears, just hold on, and you are bound to win; the higher the market goes the surer is the decline; you can carry water in a seive if you only wait—*till it freezes.*

—Mr. Freeman Clark's bill providing for the resumption of specie payments has been the subject of much discussion, opinions differing very widely as to its merits, but the prevailing opinion seems to be that the scheme is impracticable. Perhaps "this wish is father to the thought." If Mr. Clark proposes to resume specie payment he should attach to his bill a provision for free banking. Abolish the present monopoly in the national banking business and, under resumption, the currency will regulate itself.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their corre spondents:

	Morning.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115	115⅛	115⅛
U. S. Bonds of 1862	110	110⅛	110⅛
U. S. Bonds of 1864	110	110⅛	110⅛
U. S. Bonds of 1865	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛
U. S. Bonds of 1867 (new)	110⅛	110⅛	110⅛
U. S. Bonds of 1867	111⅜	111⅜	112
U. S. Bonds of 1868	112	112⅛	112⅛
10-40s	109⅞	110	110
New 5s	109⅛	109⅛	109⅛
Sold	109⅛	109⅛	109⅛

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	109
United States 6s of 1881	115½
United States 5-20s of 1862	110½
United States 5-20s of 1864	110½
United States 5-20s of 1865	111
United States 10-40s	110
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	110½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	110½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	112½
Union Pacific Railroad	
Central Pacific Railroad	
Currency Pacifics	

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

January 17, 1872.	10:30 M.	11:30 M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	108⅛	108⅝	109	109	109
Canton		81			
Wash'n Union Tel	23½	24			
Quicksilver		28⅝			
Pacific Mail	57¾	58	58	58	58⅛
Adams Express		91⅝			
Wells Fargo Ex		61½			
American Express		61⅝			
Reading		94⅛			
New York Central	98⅛	98⅜	98⅛	98⅜	98⅜
N. Y. Central scrip	96	96⅛	96	96⅛	96⅛
Erie	34⅝	34⅝	34⅜	35	35⅛
Michigan Central	93½	93⅝	93½	93⅝	93⅝
Michigan Central, new		117			
Illinois Central	129	93	92	92	92⅛
Cleveland & Pittsburg	91⅝	92	92	92	92⅛
Chicago & North'n	74⅝	74⅝	75	75⅛	74⅞
Do preferred	84½	84½	84½	84½	84½
Rock Island	111⅝	111⅝	112	111⅞	111⅞
St. Paul	37½	38	38	38	38
Do preferred	82	82	82	81⅝	82⅛
Wabash	39	39		39	39
Do preferred		83			
Fort Wayne	96	96⅛	96½	96	96⅛
Ohio and Miss'pi	48⅛	48⅜	47	49	49
Chicago & Alton	90				
Do preferred	103				
Terre Haute & R	18				
Harlem	118				
New Jersey	115				
Union Pacific	35½	35⅝	35½	35⅝	

	11:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.
Tennessee State bonds	65½	65⅝
Do. new	65⅝	65⅝
South Carolina, July	26½	27
South Carolina, April	24½	24
Missouri sixes	95⅝	95⅝

Gold loaning at ⅞ cent.
Money 6 per cent. gold.

And now the *Tribune* has a plan for funding the public debt. We propose the fixing of a single low rate of interest for our Consols, and then converting all our Funded National Debt into that Consol so fast as may be. To effect this, we propose the selling of our Consols from time to time for the most they will bring, and funding the proceeds with the proceeds. To give value to the American Consols, we propose a National pledge or guaranty that not less than $50,000,000 of these bonds shall be bought up and cancelled within each year after their sanction. Consols may can be bought at or below par. Now advertise and sell fifteen hundred millions of these consols to whomsoever will give most for them, for one or three years wherein to take and pay for them at a prescribed rate per month. Whatever the United States will hereafter make no other than a temporary loan at a higher rate than four per cent. We have not a doubt that a responsible party will take this loan, giving good security, at not more than five per cent, discount from par, and will undertake to make a handsome profit on the transaction, since this consol would steadily rise to par.

—The Monongahela Bank of South Pittsburgh opens for business to-day. They have made their capital shares $200,000. Withrow Douglass, Esq., a retired iron manufacturer, will fill the President's chair. Mr. Robert T. Hunt is cashier. He is well known as formerly connected with the bar in this city, but recently studying *bucolics* in Illinois.

—It seems that certain German bankers had sold short, for foreign accounts, Northwest Preferred, to arrive from Europe, but the steamers not arriving on time, the sellers were unable to deliver, except by buying or borrowing the stock. This bulls, aware of the situation, made a little "corner" in Northwest Preferred, and compelled the shorts to pay as high in some cases as 1 per cent. for the use of the stock till to-day.

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Penn's Central	60½	Lehigh Valley R. R.	60½
Phila. and Erie	30½	Minehill & Schuylkill	60
Leigh Navigation	49½	Camden and Amboy	123½
Catawissa	46½	Schuylkill Navigat'n	16½
Oil Creek & Alleg'y	46	Hestonville	37½

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 18, 1872.

REMARKS.—The market appears more firmer. Holders were asking a slight advance, by way of variety, we suppose. Buyers were not inclined to invest to any extent. What the advance was included for is more than we can tell. The nominal rates were as follows:

CRUDE.

Holders were desirous of obtaining the following rates: Spot 10¾c; January 10¾c; S. O., all year, 10½c; R. O., all year, 13¾c. We did not learn of any transactions.

REFINED.

Holders report the market firm. The nominal rates were: Spot 22¼c; January 22½c; February 22¾c; March 23c. These figures include eastern delivery.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, January 17.—Upper road market firm all day yesterday and strong. Crude delivery was held at $3 82½, and regular and sellers' option at $3 90. On lower road there was a considerable advance, and prices ranged from $4 00 to $4 10, and even $4 15 reported; closed with a slightly weaker feeling. Following are the

SALES:

5,000 bbls upper road, spot.....$3 85
2,000 bbls lower road, spot.....4 12

PHILADELPHIA, January 17.—Market quiet and firm; S. W. 22½c; crude 12¼@12½c; cases 27c; January 22½c; February 22½c; March 23c.

TITUSVILLE, January 17.—Market firm at $3 87½@4 92½.

PETROLEUM CENTER, January 17.—Market Very dull and weaker at $4 05@4 10.

OIL CITY, January 17.—Market quiet and a little easier; ordinary on lower creek $4 07½; 47 gravity, at Oil City held at $4 10.

BOSTON, January 17.—Market quiet and a little easier; ordinary on lower creek $4 07½; 47 gravity, at Oil City held at $4 10.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Line.]

NEW YORK, January 17.—The petroleum market is extremely quiet; refined 22¼@22½c; case oil 28⅝a 29c; crude firm 13¼c in bond and 13½c; free for sales and no inquiry.

PARKER'S LANDING, January 17.—Market quiet and little doing; nominally $3 80@3 87½.

PLEASANTVILLE, January 17.—Market quiet and dull at $3 60.

HORSEVILLE, January 17.—Market quiet and firm at $4 10.

TITUSVILLE, January 17.—Market nominal and prices unchanged.

OIL CITY, January 17.—Market very quiet and little disposition to operate either with buyers or sellers; $4 22@4 30 being the ruling figures.

Bar Iron and Nail Manufacturers.

As already announced by telegraph a meeting of the National Association of Nail Manufacturers was held at the Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, on Wednesday evening, 17. S. Hunt, of Pittsburgh, and Twenty-one manufactories were represented by delegates, and after the adjournment of the National Association the members representing the nail manufactories of United States met, and after a short discussion it was resolved to advance the price to $4 75 for ten-penny nails. The next meeting of the National Association will be held in addition on the third Wednesday of July next.

A meeting of the National Association of Bar Iron Manufacturers, was also held at the Continental Hotel, on Wednesday. James I. Bennett, of this city, presided. Sixty-eight delegates were present at the Convention, representing forty rolling mills in all parts of the United States.

After the reading of the minutes, the Chairman, Mr. Bennett, made a short address congratulating the members on the rapid increase in the membership of the Association, characterizing it as simply wonderful, and remarking that in union there was strength, there is strength and power. He was emphatic in his commendation of the policy of a protective tariff, stating that it not only protected the working men of the nation from being reduced to a condition of semi-pauperism, but protected the capitalist from ruin, and was the only true policy for the Government. It would dignify and exhalt the condition of the working people, while the opposite policy would only have the opposite result. He was in favor of the association expressing itself unequivocally on this subject.

An election of officers was held, and James I. Bennett was chosen President, and among the Managers were Campbell B. Herron, of Pittsburgh, and James Westerman, of Sharon, Pa.

The Committee on Resolutions reported a preamble and series of resolutions looking to the idea that the prosperity of the country was due in a large degree to a protective tariff, and the protest against the reduction did not arise from any selfish motive. The prosperity of labor was recognized as necessarily identified with that of capital, and the Association pledged itself to oppose any reduction in the tariff on iron, and to argue their case at Washington by facts and figures.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 17, 1872.

Cattle.

At the time of closing our last report the market was slow on common grades of cattle, which were selling about ½c lower than at the opening of the market. On Thursday the arrivals were rather heavy, but consisted principally of common grades of cattle. The market ruled moderately active during the day, and prime cattle sold up to previous prices, while common were a little weak, with prices a shade lower. On Friday the receipts were light of cattle intended for sale here, and the market ruled active, a good many changing hands. Advices from the East were more favorable and caused a better feeling here, the market on all grades being more firm. Most everything was sold by Friday evening. Toward the latter part of the week it became apparent that the arrivals would not be so heavy as many dealers looked for; this in a manner disappointed those who held back expecting to purchase cheaper cattle, as the market by Friday was firm and steady, with every prospect of getting better. Nothing was left over unsold, and the market closed with a good prospect for the coming week. On Monday the arrivals were light, and as drovers had not returned from the east not many cattle changed hands. On Tuesday the arrivals were again light of cattle for sale here, and in quality fair. With a fair attendance of buyers, the market ruled active and a good many cattle changed hands at prices from ¼c to ½c higher than last week. To-day the trade is active and the advance of yesterday fully sustained. Cattle are selling soon after arrival, and with a demand fully up to the supply, it looks as if a fair market would be had the balance of the week. Cattle of prime grades have not been in good supply since the Holidays, at which time there were an unusual number of three dollar cattle on sale. This week the best and best demand is for prime stock, and owing to this, they are selling at better prices relatively than more common grades.

Following are the prices for the different grades of stock:

Bulls.

The market for this class of stock this week is rather excited and good stock sell a ragtily about as fast as it arrives. There is simply a healthy state of the demand, and the offerings were sold up to to-night. Some bulls sold as high as $4 50 per hundred pounds; this is regarded an outside figure, but they may fairly be quoted from $3 00 to $4 00.

Total.....31

HOGS.

Cars.

P. M. Snyder, from Orville.....

Cattle Sales.

M. Varner sold 34 head Chicago cattle from $4 50 to $7 00 ₩ hundred lbs.

H. Mochlenbrock sold 14 head Pennsylvania cattle at prices from $4 00 to $5 00 ₩ hundred lbs.

M. Kraus sold 2 loads Chicago cattle at figures from $5 00 to $6 00.

Neeley & Fairley sold 21 head Pennsylvania cattle at $5 50 to $6 00.

M. Kraus wholesaled 2 loads Ohio cattle at $6 00.

Schindmantel & Diemer sold 25 head Pennsylvania cattle at prices from $5 00 to $6 00.

Peter Hartman sold 18 head Chicago cattle at figures from $5 00 to $6 00.

J Shamberg sold 17 head Chicago cattle at prices ranging from $5 00 to $6 75.

James Shaw sold 5 head Mercer county cattle at $4 00 ₩ 100 lbs.

T. G. Barrett sold 22 head Pennsylvania hogs at prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 ₩ 100 lbs.

T. G. Barrett bought through from Carroll Dean Durham bull from S. Truerman. Mr. Durham deals in the finest stock, and regards the above investment as quite an excession from the ordinary stock.

F. Hector sold 15 head choice cattle at prices from $5 50 to 5 65.

E. Katz sold 2 loads Ohio cattle at prices from $4 00 to 6 25, also extra.

K. Hellen sold 15 cattle from Ohio averaging 1,150 at 5c.

J. Loberman sold 21 head Ohio cattle at prices from $4 00 to 5 00 per hundred.

J. & S. Neezly sold 2 loads Ohio cattle at prices from $4 to 5 00.

Smith & Morrison sold 16 head Pennsylvania cattle at from $4 to $6.

Hazlewood & Blackstock sold 17 head Ohio at from $5 25 to 5 50.

Carr & McAllister sold 28 head Ohio from $4 00 to $6 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Sadler, Havens & Co. sold 1 load Ohio cattle at prices from $4 50 to $5 25; also, 19 Ohio cattle from $4 to $5 ₩ lb; also, 1 Ohio cattle from $5 75 to $5 12; also, 19 Ohio cattle at $4 to $6 37.

Trueman sold 92 head Ohio cattle at prices from $5 to 6 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Greenwald & Kahn sold 53 head Ohio and Chicago cattle at prices from $5 00 to 6 25.

S. Lowenstern sold 23 head Ohio cattle from $5 50 to $6 50 ₩ cwt.

Hyman & Bro. sold 26 head cattle from Chicago at prices from $5 to $6 50.

Jacob Frankenstein's head stock at prices from $4 55 to $5 ₩ 100 lbs.; 1 load left over.

L. Shamburg sold 23 head cattle at figures from $5 to $6 ₩ 100 lbs.

John Meanor sold 8 head Beaver county stock at figures ranging from $5 to $6 ₩ 100 lbs.

Solomon & Co. sold 16 head of Jefferson county, Ohio, cattle, from $4 00 to $5 00 ₩ 100 lbs.

S. Lowenstern sold 26 head cattle from Chicago at prices from $5 to $6 50.

Jacobs & Hirsh's head stock at prices from $4 to $5 ₩ 100 lbs.; 1 load left over.

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Stockers.

The supply of stockers on sale was larger than for some time. Some of our dealers had orders which they succeeded in filling the present week. The quality was very good, and farmers took hold, many of the purchases liberally. Prices ranged from $4 00 to $4 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Fresh Cows.

The number of fresh cows on sale larger than for some weeks. The market to-day, owing to the large offerings, ruled very dull, and sales were made slowly at figures ranging from $25 to $50, according to quality, condition, &c.

ARRIVALS.

Following are the arrivals for the week ending to-day, as reported by Mr. R. McKown, Agent of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad:

	Cars.
L. Keifer, from Chicago	1
Greenwald & K, from Chicago	3
Marks & Bros, from Chicago	4
Mochlenbrock, from Chicago	1
M. Kraus, from Chicago	2
M. Varner, from Chicago	2
E. Valnoutte, from Chicago (Stock)	1
Anderson & H, from Newark	1
Neely & Bros, Newark	1
Rothchild & Leigh, from Dayton	1
Greenwald & K, from Wooster	1
M. Schooler, from Londonville	1
A. B. Buchanson, from Londonville	1
P. M Snyder, (stock), Orville	1
T. G. Ballzel, from Enon	1
J. Mechlinn, from Enon	1
Pyland Co. R. R	1
Total	31

HOGS.

Cars.

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J. Loberman sold 21 head Ohio cattle at prices from $4 00 to 5 00 per hundred.

J. & S. Neezly sold 2 loads Ohio cattle at prices from $4 to 5 00.

Smith & Morrison sold 16 head Pennsylvania cattle at from $4 to $6.

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Carr & McAllister sold 28 head Ohio from $4 00 to $6 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Sadler, Havens & Co. sold 1 load Ohio cattle at prices from $4 50 to $5 25; also, 19 Ohio cattle from $4 to $5 ₩ lb; also, 1 Ohio cattle from $5 75 to $5 12; also, 19 Ohio cattle at $4 to $6 37.

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S. Lowenstern sold 23 head Ohio cattle from $5 50 to $6 50 ₩ cwt.

Jacobs & Hirsh's head stock at prices from $4 to $5 ₩ 100 lbs.; 1 load left over.

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Solomon & Co. sold 16 head of Jefferson county, Ohio, cattle, from $4 00 to $5 00 ₩ 100 lbs.

S. Lowenstern sold 23 head Ohio cattle from $5 50 to $6 50 ₩ cwt.

Jacobs & Hirsh sold 26 head cattle from Chicago at prices from $5 to $6 50.

Sheep.

The number of sheep on sale this morning was small, not exceeding 200 head. The market opened up brisk, and before nine o'clock all were disposed of except a few scalawags. Prices ruled good, ranging from $5 75 to $6 25 ₩ sheep, and from $6 75 to $7 25 for 100 to 110 lbs.

The supply on sale here has for some time been very light, not more than half required to meet the demand, and drovers have been compelled to look to other sources for a supply. Until after clipping time no very large runs are expected to arrive.

F. Becker sold 85 head Ohio sheep, averaging 90 lbs, at 6c.

Drum & North sold 22 hogs, averaging 250 lbs, at $4 75.

I. Schlidmantel sold 25 head Butler county sheep at $7 ₩ 100 lbs.

Hogs.

The receipts of hogs this week were light, and mostly in the hands of regular dealers. The market ruled moderately activeat prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Following are some of the sales.

F. Rose sold 120 head, at prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

James Glenn sold 17 head at $4 50 ₩ 100 lbs.

Greenwald, Emerick & Co. sold 125 head, at figures from $4 75 to $5 25 ₩ 100 lbs.

Pork Packing Around the Falls.

Last year the season opened on the 31st of October, 1870, and closed on the 22d of January, 1871. This year the season began on the 1st day of November last, and closed to-day on the 20th, making in New Albany on the 80th of December. The house of Beckman & Co., in New Albany, expect to kill a few more hogs, but the number will not be very large, a fact that tends to confirm within the figures $150,000 estimated by some of the packers.

As will be seen, the operations in the city foot up 78,000 hogs, 50,000 of which were packed by Gwathney & Co., and 28,000 by Fulton & Co. The following statement, furnished by the Board of Trade, shows the kind and number of hogs packed around the falls during the season just closed:

	Head.
Anderson, Hamilton & Co., Louisville	12,000
O. W. Thomas & Co	41,472
Hamilton & Co	40,500
Hughes, Gosiee & Co	24,843
Owsley & Co	31,105
Frost, Lang & Co	39,672
Jarvis & Co	23,242
A. Schoefferlin & Co	14,000
Littorie & Co	9,130
Total in the city	281,826
Thos. J. Martin & Son, Jeffersonville, Ind	27,652
McMath, Goodrich & Co., New Albany, Ind	19,324
Beckman & Co	4,000
Total	308,826

—Louisville Courier-Journal, December 31.

THE HOP MARKET.

NEW YORK.

January 13.—The market is very firm for all kinds. Sales about 300 bales 1871's at 60a70c; 200 do 1870's at 25a35c, and 150 do 1869's 29c—all for consumption.

The following is from the circular of Mr. Emmet Wells:

	Bales.
Receipts for the week	464
Receipts for corresponding week 1871	1,149
Receipts corresponding week 1870	6,0
Total receipts since September 1st, 1871	22,448
Total receipts for same period in 1870	36,0
Total receipts for same period in 1869	80,847
Exports for the week to Liverpool	0
Total exports since September 1, 1871	1,95
Imports for the week	100
Total imports since September 1, 1871	2,376

—Commercial List.

COAL MATTERS.

CINCINNATI.

January 11.—There is a fair inquiry at 20c for Youghiogheny delivered, 18c for Ohio river, 24c for Cannel; Gas coke at yards, 12c; delivered, 14c; hard foundry 18a20c.

Lump Ice.—There has been a good retail demand. The following were the closing current rates:

Youghiogheny, per bush, afloat.....14c
Youghiogheny, delivered, ₩ bush.....20c
Ohio river, per bush, afloat.....14c
Ohio river, delivered, ₩ bush.....18c
Cannel, delivered, ₩ bush.....24c
Gas Coke, at yards, ₩ bush.....12c
Gas Coke, delivered, ₩ bush.....14c
Hard Foundry Coke, delivered, ₩ bush.....18a20c

Petroleum Iron—Progress of the Process.

An order from New York for two tons of iron, manufactured from liquid fuel, natural gas, or petroleum, was filed at the Laclede rolling mills the other day. It is intended for experimental use, and further orders will be made from this week, to be drawn into wire—all the material for the purpose having to be imported at present. A couple of tons have already arrived, and are stored at the Laclede, with a view to saving in the consumption of fuel, which, when used, it is thought will show very favorable results.—*St. Louis Times.*

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, January 17.—Dry goods—Some of the leading jobbing houses are pretty busy, and are disposing of most of their woolens at a slight increase from the new scale of prices fixed by agents. The most important changes of the week have occurred in delaine and alpaca lustres. Massonville and Slater & Son's paper can brics to 12½c, and Manville rolled seconds to the same figure. Heavy brown sheetings are in fair request at 13¾a14c. Printing cloths are scarce and firm, at 7¾c; fancy printed calicoes at 11a 11½c. Nashua and New York Mills muslins are in request at 20a21c respectively. Blackstone fine cottons are advanced half a cent. Hope to 15c; Lonsdale cambrics to 22c; Selesias to 14½c, and paper cambrics to 12c.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, January 17.—Tobacco continues receipts and demand light; sales: logs, leaf and lug to fair leaf $7 50a12 00. Bagging—demand light and prices steady at 18a18c. Cotton a shade firmer but not quotably higher; middling 15½c. Flour—dull and firm and unchanged. Corn, oats and rye only in fair demand. Provisions—Pork firm at $16 75 for large lots. Bacon active; shoulders 6¾a6½c. Bulk meats active and strong; sides clear rib 8¾a8¾c; sides clear rib 6½c. Whisky steady at 93c.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, January 18.—Cotton steady; middling 21¾c. Flour and grain unchanged. Mess pork dull and drooping; sales at $13 12½. Lard quiet and unchanged; steam, 8¾c; kettle 9c. Bulk meats dull and declined to 5¾a6¾a6½c. Bacon—demand light but held firmly; shoulders 6¼c; sides 7¾a7½c. Hogs firm at $4 50a4 60; prime to good heavy, $4 75a5 00 at 85c. Green meats quiet at 4¾a5¾a8a8½c for medium to light.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, January 17.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat quiet and weak; No. 1 $1 23½; No 2 $1 21¾. Oats dull; No. 2 32½c. Corn in fair demand and firm; No. 2 at 42c. Rye firm; No. 1 67c. Barley steady; No. 2 fall 61c. Hogs quiet and unchanged at $4 15a4 20. Meat pork dull and drooping at $12 50.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 17.—Flour firm; Ohio $7 25a7 50; Minnesota $8 00a8 25. Wheat less active; State red $1 70; Western $1 66. Rye 88 a90c. Corn dull; new yellow 66a67c; white 67½c; mixed western 69a70c. Oats steady; white 54a55c. Coffee firm; Rio 17¾c good; duty paid, 22¾@23c. Sugar firmer at 9¾a9

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1872.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

THE PRESS prints what it thinks would be a fair apportionment of the first five Congressional districts of this State, and adds the remark: "In the performance of the important duty of re-districting the State, the Legislature will pursue a wise policy, modelled with a just sense of the public interests, and if in the details of their work they should offend any individual desire or preference, the general good accomplished will more than atone for it."

THE defeat of HARLAN for Senator in Iowa is one of the most gratifying events that we have been called on to record for many a day. His defeat at a time when so much is being done to purify the public service, was an eminently proper if not a necessary act. His failure may no doubt be accepted as the verdict of guilty by the Republicans of Iowa on charges extremely damaging to him as a public man. Of Mr. ALLISON, his successful opponent, it may be said that his course in the other branch of Congress was honorable and useful; in his election the Senate and country have made a real gain.

THE war that has been declared on Civil Service Reform may lead to some curious changes. Thus, CARPENTER's assault will almost necessarily bring out Gen. SCHURZ in defense of the President. TRUMBULL, if he would not sacrifice his consistency, must second him. SUMNER, too, will be compelled to lift up his voice for General GRANT. And CONKLING must either part company with CARPENTER and stand in line with SCHURZ, TRUMBULL and SUMNER, or in the awkward attitude of opponent of the Administration. In this respect, it seems not unlikely that the "GRANT" and "anti-GRANT" Senators may change sides, and it may come out, too, who are actuated by principle and who by selfish motive.

SENATOR CARPENTER'S onslaught on General GRANT'S Civil Service plan was a singular proceeding. In remarking, the other day, on the necessity of the people rallying to the support of the President in his efforts looking to reform, we said that the politicians, members of Congress and professional office-seekers were, as a general thing, opposed to him, and that without such support he would fail. CARPENTER'S assault on the President—for it amounts to this—proves how correct we were. How extensive is the movement against Gen. GRANT and Civil Service Reform, headed by the Wisconsin Senator, we have no means of knowing. It is likely, however, to be attended with considerable expectation. As to the measure of realization, time will show.

MR. COLFAX will consent—has consented—to accept the Vice Presidential nomination once more. If ever there were reasons for doubting it none longer exist. He wanted to leave the Vice Presidency and go into the furniture business at his old home in South Bend,—in fact, had already invested and arranged to take the Presidency of a manufacturing company, as something better than the Vice Presidency of the United States. Probably furniture makers in general will appreciate the honor. They may sometime claim the Vice President as one of their own. It might not, however, be profitable in turn for any considerable number of furniture makers to aspire to the Vice Presidency. There are very few COLFAXES in or at the business.

AT the Republican National Convention to be held in Philadelphia on the 5th of next June, each State is to be represented by twice as many delegates as it has Senators and representatives in Congress—each Congressional territory is to have two delegates, who shall be entitled to vote. This will give a total delegation of six hundred and fifty-two members. In calling the Convention the Committee recite the events which have transpired since the Convention of 1868 was held, and remind the country that all the promises made by that Convention have been faithfully observed, and to a considerable extent fulfilled, and that the Republican party confidently appeals to the people for continued support and countenance on the basis of its past record. The coming Convention will be in many respects the most important gathering of its kind ever held in the country.

NEW YORK seems determined to put an end to the reign of King Bogus. A bill was last week introduced into the Legislature of that State prohibiting the manufacture of any jewelry of a grade below fourteen carats, or of silverware of less than nine hundred parts of silver to one hundred of baser metal, under a penalty of fifty dollars for every article so manufactured. The bill also provides a similar penalty for affixing a false stamp to any article of jewelry. This will create a panic among the cheap jewelry sharpers of that State. Such a law is now in force in France and some other parts of Europe. If the law relative to stamping could only be enforced in reference to jewelry as well as jewelry, it is probable that a number of the legislators themselves, who now look like and are esteemed as being the true metal, would be found to be little more than spurious imitations.

THE immense rush of Germans to the United States since the close of the French war, appears to have excited real alarm in the Berlin cabinet, which is devising a number of schemes by which to prevent the enormous Westward flow. Among these plans is an agreement, the preliminaries of which are said to be already settled, between the governments of Prussia and Austria, by which the moral influence of the former is to be exerted to divert toward the latter country the surplus labor with which it is stocked. It is understood that Austria, which alike in her fields and factories lacks supplies of workmen, offers prices fifty per cent. higher than the wages at present paid in Germany. It is natural, of course, for these governments to desire to keep their own people on their own soil; but it is more than doubtful whether any measures short of coercive ones will be able, perceptibly, to check the great and growing current flowing ever toward the New World.

A SINGULAR circumstance connected with the *Florida* is, that whether or not she was brought to by a Spanish man-of-war and searched, as first reported, should have been so long a matter of dispute, the fact being that she was twice subjected to this indignity. The particulars as they have been given to the public sustain the original report. They afford ample ground for the demand by our Government of an apology and reparation, and this no doubt will be promptly if it has not already been made. But notwithstanding the transaction affords proof of Spanish recklessness and perhaps ill-will, war with Spain does not necessarily follow. There is but one course open to this Government—but one for Spain to adopt. She must apologise. The identical principle for which we last went to war with Great Britain, is now involved, only the grounds are all the more distinctly settled. It is evident that very much depends on Spain herself.

IN regard to the New York Custom House investigation, it may be said that so much has been disclosed and rendered probable that there is more to be gained, even politically, by going ahead than holding back. This fact Senator HOWE, and possibly some others of his committee, may not fully understand. Some of the abuses in the Custom House and elsewhere under every party that has controlled the Government. Others are of comparatively recent origin, the General Order system, for instance. Whoever exposes them with a will, and manifests a firm determination to break them up, will gain by it. This is the real point of advantage. The Republicans, who are the majority of the committee, should seize it, as O'CONOR, TILDEN and other leading Democrats did in the case of the Tammany corruptionists. The perfection of wisdom has been described as the ability to perceive an opportunity and nerve to improve it. Let us try Mr. HOWE's committee by this rule.

THE burden of a Washington dispatch to the New York *Tribune* is that there is a general understanding in administration quarters, in and out of Congress, to make a sham of Civil Service Reform, and it is intimated that Gen. GRANT has consented, or will have to consent, to the fraud of looking one way and rowing another. This may to some extent be true of others, but without better authority we shall disbelieve it as to Gen. GRANT, who, whatever else may be imputed to him, has not been charged with double dealing. His putting in practical operation the plan recommended to him, has, it is true, driven certain Senatorial and other interested supporters, in and out of Congress, to throw off the mask and come out against the reform, though pretending to despise it so much, but there is no sort of proof that Gen. GRANT has weakened in his purpose to "fight it out" on the line laid down in his recent communication to Congress. The desertion of him by CARPENTER, CONKLING and others who supported him for the sake of the spoils, will serve rather to make him all the more determined. If this is not his nature then he has been wholly misunderstood by the world.

TEMPERANCE AND LEGISLATION.

Never before were the minds of thoughtful men so much exercised as at present concerning the evil effects of intemperance in the use of strong drink. Though the temperance agitation, technically so called, is still kept up, and societies with their pledges and their itinerant lecturers still proclaim their existence and make their appeals to the public in the various ways with which the public are familiar, these agencies afford no adequate expression of the extent or intensity of the concern caused by the gigantic evil against which they are directed. No disrespect is intended when we say that the arguments of many of the lecturers touching temperance so called, have too often seemed founded on palpable fictions, or manifest perversion of facts, and have too often been marked by an exaggeration of statement which moved the contempt of careful inquirers, while their denunciations and appeals betrayed miserably narrow and shallow apprehension of Divine order and human government. Hence, though it might be impossible to doubt the purity of the reformers' motives, it might be equally impossible not to regret that the virtues of their hearts were not made more respectable by corresponding strength of head. In fact, the concern which now prevails on the subject of intemperance may be justly said to have grown up independently and almost in spite of the labors of special agitators of reform. It is the proper and legitimate product of those humanistic and sociological researches by which the last few years have been distinguished. Man in his individual and social character has been studied with a fervor of curiosity as well as with a philanthropic interest never before applied to the subject. The mechanism and the physiology of his frame and constitution are understood as never before, while his relations to society have also received novel elucidation. As the result of manifold investigations on these subjects, not only the individual but the social and economical evils of intemperance have been disclosed and illustrated with an impression which compels the attention of a numerous class who were deaf or indifferent to the most eloquent representations of the preacher, or of the mere moral reformer. Not only in this country but in Great Britain, and to some extent on the continent of Europe, the subject is seen to be one which seems to involve great political as well as social interests. In England the subject is so evidently and closely allied with the subjects of pauperism and popular education that it is found difficult to legislate in reference to one of them without legislating in reference to the others also. On this side of the Atlantic the subject presents peculiar difficulties, which result partly from the heterogeneous composition of our population, partly from the spirit of republican institutions, and partly from the effects of the long agitation of the subject with reference merely to moral reform. Prohibition, which is favored by a portion of the people in some States, may be safely set aside as out of the question. The time is certainly yet remote when public opinion would render prohibition a sufficient remedy for the evils to be removed, even if it were adopted. In the meantime, no legislation on the subject is found to afford much satisfaction to either the friends or the opponents of interference. The latest legislative enactment for the suppression of the plague in this city passed a few days ago by the Legislature of the State of Illinois. In the Senate it received a vote of thirty-four against five, and in the House of Representatives one hundred and nine members supported, while forty-three were opposed to the measure. The act thus adopted is, we believe, substantially the somewhat famous Temperance Law of the State of Ohio. It is not prohibition; it recognizes the buying and selling of ardent spirits as a legitimate business. But it makes not only the keeper of the drinking house who sells liquor, but the owner of the house in which liquor is sold, responsible for all the injuries done by the drunken man. We have not seen the law, but a newspaper hostile to it says that among the injuries to be thus compensated are included all the real or imaginary losses and the anguish of heart and mortification sustained by the drunkard's family. Severe penalties are provided for the selling of ardent spirits to habitual drunkards or to minors. The essential provision of the statute is the money indemnity to be paid by the seller to the drinker for injuries resulting from his intemperance. It is to be noted that the act was not passed by a party vote, but in both houses an equal proportion of Democrats and Republicans sustained the law. At present we do not feel competent to express an opinion as to the character or policy of the measure, and simply report the act as an illustration of the efforts by which legislators are endeavoring to arrest or regulate an evil, which is daily growing more clamorous for attention.

RUSSIA AND AMERICA.

It is not at all surprising to learn that our relations with Russia in consequence of the CATACAZY affair are such as to furnish an interesting and anxious subject of discussion to diplomatists and others in Washington. We fancy that few persons, having even a tincture of knowledge concerning Russian diplomacy and statesmanship, supposed for a moment that the international difficulty had been settled by the withdrawal of the Russian Minister, or that Prince GORTSCHAKOFF would accept quietly and without resentment the statement of the case contained in the President's Message. Submission under the circumstances would not have been characteristic either of the Prince or of the Government which he serves—the mighty despotism which, in the pursuit of its schemes of self-aggrandizement, disdains at times all principles, however respectable they may be, and which, though one of the most powerful empires of the world, employs as its ordinary instruments of success the meanest of those arts and artifices by which cunning supplies the want of, or reinforces strength. When the CATACAZY trouble first began to be talked about, we had little doubt, as we now have little doubt, that it then afterwards, that the Russian Minister in endeavoring to prevent the peaceful settlement of the Alabama question was acting in strict accordance with his instructions. Nor did it appear that in order to effect his object he had resorted to any measures inconsistent with the principles upon which Russian diplomatists are wont to act, however incompatible his conduct might have been with honor or the proprieties of diplomacy. One of his chief offences consisted in an attempt to appeal to the people in opposition to the wishes and views of their chosen government. At St. Petersburg this step, no doubt, appeared a legitimate use of the claim upon American gratitude established by Russian interposition during our civil war. To establish such a claim was the object of the interposition, and to abstain, for reasons of delicacy or decency, from efforts to reap the full benefit possibly to be derived from the national gratitude, almost certainly seems to GORTSCHAKOFF and the CZAR as it seemed to CATACAZY more imbecile sentimentalism. It is not by such refinement that the Russian empire is extending over Asia and is to extend over Western Europe. We may depend upon it CATACAZY will be fully acquitted of blame and in evidence of the imperial approbation will be distinguished in some imposing way.

It is not to be supposed that GORTSCHAKOFF or the CZAR is offended at the American people by the treatment which CATACAZY has received in this country. Not at all. They are both indignant with the President and his Secretary of State, but they doubtless believe that the people are upon the whole still right enough, as grateful and simple as ever. The fervor of their gratitude has been made manifest in the enthusiasm with which the Grand Duke has been received, and by the display which he has called forth the success of his mission may seem to have fully justified his voyage. Prince GORTSCHAKOFF apparently has still to learn how little genuine exhibitions of enthusiasm mean in this country. But if it should appear that our high and mighty friends in St. Petersburg are at length disenchanted and convinced that they have nothing substantial to expect from American friendship, and if as the result of the disappointment the American minister should be furnished with his passports, why perhaps, after all, there would be no cause for national sorrow or mortification. There is not, and in the nature of things there cannot be, any really intelligent sympathy between American republicanism and Muscovite despotism. Shams are always mischievous, and the sham of American admiration for Russia has tended greatly to injure our reputation and weaken our influence in civilized Europe. Continental hatred of England rather than love or respect for each other has been the bond hitherto uniting the two countries.

WHAT GEN. GRANT WILL DO.

That General GRANT would be prepared to act on the suggestions of the evidence given before the Senate Committee of Investigation into the New York Custom House abuses the country had every reason to expect. His public life is a guarantee that official corruption, made fully known, will meet with no lenient treatment at his hands. Rigid accountability is one of the strongest elements in the military education by which his character was formed, and the weighty responsibilities of the past ten years could not but strengthen the influences of academic discipline. For this reason the report that he will do what his best friends desire of him may be regarded as trustworthy. In common with the almost universal feeling on the subject he will doubtless perceive the impropriety—not to use stronger language—of giving further countenance to subordinates, who have used his personal regard for them as a cloak wherewith to screen from merited indignation acts that morality, though not perhaps the law, can only look upon as criminal. As President he cannot fail to see that men, who were good soldiers when upon his staff in time of war, have not been able to withstand the temptations of civil life; that they have made market of their presumed relations with him; that they have shamefully outraged his confidence, and done what in them lay to bring discredit on some details of his administration. General GRANT was not the man to underrate the strength of an enemy on a field of battle; President GRANT will not be the man to do so in the field of politics. Enemies he has; many of the bitterest of them affiliating with the party for which he has done so much and whose standard-bearer he unquestionably is to-day. It is the part of wisdom for him to disarm these foes by removing the pretext for their hostility, and at the same time rid himself of an incumbrance that would be burdensome to himself. Whatever kindness he felt he owed to those who shared with him the trials and perils of his campaigns has been more than repaid, and in many instances has met with a return of selfish ingratitude and treachery, not only to his own best interests, but to those of the nation. General GRANT never moved hastily and on insufficient grounds, and it would be inconsistency to suppose that President GRANT will do so now. But the proof of grossest turpitude against several of those who have enjoyed his special favor is so strong that their dismissal from the positions they have misused may be counted on as certain.

IN the death of the Duc de PERSIGNY, which took place at Nice on Friday, LOUIS NAPOLEON has lost a steadfast friend, who might have rendered him important service in an attempt to regain imperial power. JEAN GILBERT VICTOR FIALIN, who became first Count and then Duc de PERSIGNY, was born in 1808, and was educated as a soldier. A vehement royalist, he was early in life led to adopt republican opinions through the influence of a friend, a Captain in the regiment of Hussars in which he served. He was so zealous a politician that he at length, in 1830, took part in a military movement in favor of the July Revolution, and was dismissed, or at least induced to retire from the service, on a charge of insubordination. Ignorant of business and without capital, he went to Paris in search of employment, where, falling in with the *Memorial de St. Helene*, he became an enthusiastic Bonapartist, and established the *Occident Francois* in the interest of the party. From this publication, of which from want of money he was able to issue only the first number, he seems to have derived no other advantage than an introduction to the ex-King JOSEPH, and a recommendation from him to the good will of Prince LOUIS BONAPARTE, who was then living in Switzerland. The two at once became fast friends. After the Strasburg affair, in which FIALIN had been active, he fled to England, where he studied the language and made many friends. In 1840 he was engaged in the Prince's BOULOGNE enterprise, was taken prisoner and condemned by the Court of Peers to twenty years' imprisonment. At first confined in the prison of Doullens, he was after a while, on account of feeble health, transferred to the military hospital at Versailles, where he was allowed free range of the town on parole. When the February revolution occurred, he at once thought of his friend, LOUIS, and of the charm which lay in the BONAPARTE name as a means of putting down a republic. Going to Paris he stirred up the zeal of the friends of the family, organized them, started newspapers to advocate the cause, and then traveled in various directions through France, laboring for the triumphant election of December 10. In reward for his services he received the appointment of Adjutant to the new Prince President, who took him first into his counsels regarding the coup d'etat of December 2, and assigned him the duty on that occasion of occupying with a regiment of the line the place in which the National Assembly held its meeting. From the first he was one of the chief advisers and supporters of the usurper, and held several high offices under him. In 1855 he became French Ambassador in London, and on returning to Paris in 1860 he became a leading minister. He has been usual to ascribe to him a large share in the credit of LOUIS NAPOLEON'S successes.

IF a more cogent objection against compulsory education can be anywhere be found than the arguments in favor of it embodied in the circular statement we yesterday published concerning the question of illiteracy in the United States, taken from the forthcoming report of the Commissioner of Education, we shall be glad to have it adduced. The facts and figures there presented possess an alarming gravity and significance which can hardly be overestimated, since such a state of ignorance as is shown by these statistics to exist, constitutes a standing peril, not to public order and private rights, but to our very institutions themselves. The aggregate number of adult and minor illiterates is 5,643,534, or about one-seventh of the entire population of the country, of whom over two millions and a-half are either present or prospective voters. The wisdom of the recommendation of the President to Congress that at least a portion of the funds derived from the sales of public lands to settlers should be applied to the support of the public schools of the country, becomes, under this exhibit, more apparent than ever. While the amount of ignorance existing in the Northern and Western States is sufficiently large to excite the gravest anxiety, the great preponderance is, of course, to be found in the South. From these States very little is to be expected in the way of voluntary action. They have neither the financial ability nor the moral inclination to remedy the evil. The need of action, however, is none the less urgent. Everybody can understand the relation which exists between intelligence and good government, between ignorance and lawlessness, and it is to be trusted that the grave necessities of the case may lead to the speedy passage of some comprehensive measure whereby at least the children of the country may be orderly trained for the intelligent discharge of their duty as citizens.

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"No one, we hope, is so foolishly sanguine as to suppose that the practices of so evil a system as that which our civil service has become can be superseded without *persistent effort and immense hostility of every kind*. It will be some time before those who are already in office can understand the *new spirit of the system* and the *settled purpose of the President*. There must necessarily be disappointments and vexations and delays. But the hope of the reform and the dependence of the President are *in the good sense of the people*, who know very well the foibles of the present system, and who understand that it cannot be abolished by a word. Patience and good humor and steadiness, and a disposition to modify in any rule as experience may show the necessity or wisdom of modification, are invaluable allies in such a campaign as that upon which the President has entered, with the hopes and wishes of the most intelligent and patriotic citizens."

SHOULD it transpire that the reported proposition of the ROTHSCHILDS to Secretary BOUTWELL is true, it will, even if the offer is not accepted, constitute perhaps the most emphatic testimony and tribute to the wonderful moral and material strength of our country that has ever been paid. The amount—six hundred millions—involved in the proposed contract, is said to be larger than was ever before embraced in a single financial operation, the entire capital of the great house of ROTHSCHILD being pledged to the offer. The project, however, is not particularly surprising, when it is reflected how steadily and rapidly the credit of the United States has risen for years past. It is true that the terms of the offer are above the ruling market rates of our bonds, and therefore to that degree inviting; but taking into account the present promise of our credit, it is equally certain that in a comparatively few years they will command a still higher price than that which is now offered, so that our acceptance of the proposition would in the end redound quite as much to the profit of the ROTHSCHILDS as to our own advantage; for it is not for a moment to be supposed that this sagacious house would bid above the market unless it were to their financial interest to do so. Whether the negotiations said to be pending in the matter shall be closed or not, their effect upon the finances of the country can hardly fail to be of a favorable character; since the very knowledge that such an enormous demand exists for our securities will naturally tend still further to enhance their value in all the money markets of the world.

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THE acquittal of Mrs. WHARTON would now seem to be almost a moral certainty. As the presumptive evidences of crime have apparently faded away under the light of fuller scientific testimony, a corresponding change has taken place in public opinion, until persons who have all along persisted in her guilt are now said to be becoming convinced of her innocence, and anxious for her acquittal. A somewhat remarkable feature of the case is, that all the witnesses, whether for the prosecution or defence, have unanimously testified to her singular amiability, kindness, gentleness and humanity; and the question has very naturally suggested itself whether a woman of excellent qualities would be likely to fall at once from a position of exalted virtue to so depraved and criminal a depth as that charged against her. Unless the rebutting evidence of the State shall be able to overthrow the medical and chemical testimony introduced by the defense, the case, which it is thought will be given to the jury during the present week, can have but one termination.

REFERRING to the selection of Philadelphia for the Republican National Convention, on the 5th day of June next, the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* says:

"PENNSYLVANIA felt a little grouty during the first part of General Grant's administration because she was not offered two or three cabinet appointments and what few foreign missions were at the disposal of the executive; but she is being conciliated grandly, and may be fully relied on to vote 'right,' next November."

There has been a good deal of this nonsense, first and last, and the papers that continue to repeat it only offend the good sense of their readers. It might be well for them to inquire and determine fairly what part Pennsylvania has had in maintaining the supremacy of the Republican party in the nation; what is the evidence that she has at any time been "grouty"—whatever that is—about Cabinet or other appointments, and whether the action of the National Committee was more or less than a proper tribute to her fidelity. Pennsylvania is Republican in principle. If she has been slighted, which is not her complaint, she has been true. Had she not been, what would be the Republican prospect to-day?

EX-SENATOR DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, who four years ago spent several months in Russia, and became familiar with the actual character of the Russian Government and the public men of the country, in a speech at the late Alexis banquet in Milwaukee, assigned as one of the principal reasons of the sympathy and friendship existing between the United States and that Empire, the fact that, although a difference of a thousand years existed in the ages of the two countries, they were each of them a growing power, whose destiny in the New World was felt and known to the other to be of a similar character; that the same necessities which in Jefferson's time demanded the purchase of Louisiana, to control the mouth of the Mississippi, are said now, upon Russia and must control its policy; that her people could not hold free commercial intercourse with the rest of the world through a sea which during eight months of the year is closed with ice; that her expanding civilization imperatively demanded other outlets, and that hence the country looks beyond the Black Sea towards the Mediterranean, and eastward toward the Pacific, to both of which places he predicted it would ultimately go. Aside from the special reasons for sympathy growing out of the great reforms in the interest of freedom and humanity in which both countries have been and are engaged, there is probably some force in the reason assigned, commercial in its character as it may seem to be.

APROPOS of the call which has recently been issued for the assembling of a National Convention at Cincinnati on the last day of the present month, for the purpose of securing such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as will recognize the Supreme Being as the source of its authority, and place all Christian laws, institutions and usages of our Government on a legal basis in the fundamental law of the nation, an interesting letter upon the subject, written by President Washington soon after the adoption of the Constitution, has lately been republished from the Massachusetts *Centinel* of December 5, 1789, from which it appears that the same theocratic ideas upon which the present call is based prevailed at that time to a considerable degree, and that General Washington did not sympathize with them, since he observes that "the path of true piety is so plain as to require but little political direction," intimates that to this consideration the absence of any regulations respecting religion from the Magna Charta of our country ought to be ascribed, and adds that in the progress of morality and science, to which the Government will be entitled in the United States, taken from the forthcoming report of the Commissioner of Education, we shall be glad to have it adduced. The facts and figures there presented possess an alarming gravity and significance which can hardly be overestimated, since such a state of ignorance as is shown by these statistics to exist, constitutes a standing peril, not to public order and private rights, but to our very institutions themselves. The aggregate number of adult and minor illiterates is 5,643,534, or about one-seventh of the entire population of the country, of whom over two millions and a-half are either present or prospective voters. The wisdom of the recommendation of the President to Congress that at least a portion of the funds derived from the sales of public lands to settlers should be applied to the support of the public schools of the country, becomes, under this exhibit, more apparent than ever. While the amount of ignorance existing in the Northern and Western States is sufficiently large to excite the gravest anxiety, the great preponderance is, of course, to be found in the South. From these States very little is to be expected in the way of voluntary action. They have neither the financial ability nor the moral inclination to remedy the evil. The need of action, however, is none the less urgent. Everybody can understand the relation which exists between intelligence and good government, between ignorance and lawlessness, and it is to be trusted that the grave necessities of the case may lead to the speedy passage of some comprehensive measure whereby at least the children of the country may be orderly trained for the intelligent discharge of their duty as citizens.

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THE Louisville *Courier-Journal* thinks that the witty paragraphs in the COMMERCIAL must be written by an undertaker.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

A private letter received in Washington from Messina, Italy, dated December, states that "almost every city in Italy is infected with small-pox. In Messina a large portion of the lower classes is attacked, and many of them die. The health officer gives clean bills of health, but, since the 7th instant, the American and British consuls, after a consultation, agreed to enter in their bills of health that "cases of small-pox have occurred in the city, some of which have terminated fatally." The other consuls think it unnecessary, as, in their opinion, the disease was raging over the whole continent of Europe."

The following is the old SAXON statute referring to leap year: "Albeit, as often as leape yearre dothe occurre, the woman holdeth prerogative over the menne in matters of courtshippe, love and matrimonie; so that when the lady proposeth it shall not be lawful for the man to say her nae, but shall entertaine her proposal in all gude courtesie."

Complaints are made in various quarters of the country that winter wheat is suffering considerably from the unfavorable condition of the ground, caused by the changeable weather during the winter.

Three-fourths of the water of London has been pronounced poisonous by Prof. Frankland, of the Royal Institution.

The physician in charge of the drunkard's department of Blackwell's Island says that milk or eggs are antidotes for liquor poisons, and those who must drink liquor should mix milk or eggs with their "poison," which will take effect on those articles instead of the toper's stomach.

One of the examiners in the Internal Revenue Bureau says that, as a general rule, the female clerks pass better examinations than the men.

It is stated that the President will soon send a message to Congress in relation to the better protection of emigrants, as indicated in his last message, accompanied by the report of a special agent who was sent to Germany last summer on a tour of observation.

The *India Gazette* says that the aggregate number of deaths by wild beasts throughout the provinces of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-western provinces, Punjaub, Oude, Central provinces, Courge, Hyderabad and British Burmah, for three years, amounts to 12,554. The deaths from snake bites over the same area number 25,604, making a total of 38,218.

The publication of the Sandringham *Daily Prince of Wales Bulletin* has been suspended indefinitely, not because of lack of friends, but because the subjects for editorial opinion have given out.

It is a London custom to hire the *Times* at so much an hour from newsdealers, a single copy thus serving for a number of persons.

It is now suggested that Philadelphia should be selected as a semi-capital of the nation, without disturbing its present location in the city of Washington, so far as the public buildings are concerned.

The new territory of Ojibway, which it is proposed to set off in the northern part of Dakota, will contain about 74,000 square miles, being nearly one-half the present area of Dakota. It contains a large area of fertile and well watered lands, but its inhabitants consist, as yet, almost entirely of Indians. It will be crossed midway, however, by the Northern Pacific Railroad, which will build up settlements and towns rapidly along its route.

A curious petition has been addressed by the clergy of Alsace to the Emperor of Germany. Divested of its verbiage, it amounts simply to this: Give us unlimited control of church and school, and promote our worldly interests in every way, and we shall desist from telling our parishioners to hope for reincorporation with France.

The Signal Service has commenced to report the depth of water on the prominent points on the Mississippi and other principal rivers, in the same manner that weather reports are now forwarded. The pilots of steamers will be regularly informed of the depth of water in the channels, thus having positive information on which to act, instead of vague and unreliable reports.

Mrs. Stokes, wife of the murderer of Fisk, a good and beautiful lady, is on her way home from Europe, and has no inkling of the dreadful tidings which await her on arrival in New York. It is stated that Miss Mansfield some months ago endeavored to get Stokes to procure a divorce from this excellent woman; but in this she failed, as Stokes was not so lost to all fine feelings as to discard the wife of his bosom. The last letter written to Stokes by his wife was a model of forgiving conjugal affection.

For the first time in the history of the country the proceedings of the House of Representatives were opened last Tuesday with prayer by a Hebrew rabbi from Canada. The peculiarity of his wearing his hat during the delivery of the prayer, which is the prevailing custom among all orthodox Jews, was the subject of comment by those not familiar with it.

The first test case in the Treasury Department under the civil service rules of appointment to office is the appointment to fill the office of Controller of Currency. The appointment of the present incumbent expires very shortly, and the appointment is open to persons of both sexes.

Not content with being the leading distributive centre, St. Louis is bidding largely for the cotton trade. She has erected cotton presses and extended her transportation facilities, for which she was rewarded during the year with the receipt of 1,500 bales of the great staple, against 11,394 the preceding year. Other branches of trade and industry show an equally gratifying expansion. To accommodate this commercial growth, two new banks, with a combined capital of $650,000, were inaugurated during the year, and the finances of the city appear to be in a flourishing condition.

The prospects for the coming season are that the present prices of sugars will be maintained. Three years ago a decline of two cents per pound was anticipated, but sugars are really not high as compared with other articles of prime necessity. Persons who have recently arrived from Cuba represent that the eastern part of the island is virtually in the hands of the insurgents, and that no sugar need be expected from Neuvitas for a year or two, the plantations in that neighborhood being generally destroyed. This being one of the largest shipping ports, its being closed to commerce is seriously felt.

Haight's circus was at Albany, Ga., on New Year's day, and while there it was necessary to make some changes among the animals. So in running the hyena from one cage to another, the animal sprang upon his keeper in the cage, whereupon a most desperate encounter between man and beast ensued. The fight was for life. The keeper fought despately to keep from being killed outright. His clothes were literally torn in shreds, but by almost supernatural efforts he prevented his flesh being lacerated. He was rescued by some of the men attacking the hyena with crow-bars.

Representative Beck has prepared a careful and thorough statement of the total amount of money taken from the Southern States by the "carpet-bag" governments. He computes an aggregate of over two hundred millions. Senators Blair and Bayard will also sign the statement, which will be submitted to both Houses as a minority report from the Ku-Klux Committee.

In Lincoln county, Nevada, there is a mountain of salt, pure, solid and transparent. In early days, when the Mormons had to rely solely on their own resources, they used flakes from this mountain for window panes, instead of glass.

Florida papers say that the present season has produced the largest and most delicious oranges seen for many years. The unusual size of the fruit is presumed to be owing to the fact that the groves lost one-third of their fruit during the severe gales of August, since which time the season has been most propitious for their development?

The Portland (Oregon) *Herald* says that Joaquin Miller, "the poet of the Sierras," is engaged to be married to a lady of the Scottish nobility.

The Quaker revival at Brooklyn, to which we recently made reference, is bearing fruit in kind in various other parts of the country. The Society is also becoming modernized in the item of marriage. The parties still perform the ceremony themselves, but are allowed to do so at home instead of in the public meeting, as formerly, a committee of the Society being present.

The joint efforts making by Germany and Austria to induce the skilled workmen of the former country to go to the latter, where labor is scarce and very highly paid, threatens, it is said, very seriously to interfere with our own supply of educated artisans from the German Empire.

An eminent French physician recently stated that the French consume more tobacco than any other nation, and he attributes the enervation of the soldiers, as evinced during the late war, to the combined effect of alcohol and nicotine upon the national character.

A priest's corpse has just been discovered on the roof of Notre Dame, Paris. It was astraddle an archivault, and its head, crushed almost flat, was still glued by blood to the stones. The corpse still had on a priest's cassock, except where the rooks and crows had torn it. It was the body of a man about fifty years old. A silver ring was on his left little finger, and in his pockets a small box-wood paper cutter and a Russian leather purse, containing 23f. 75c., and a business letter. It is yet impossible to explain the presence of the corpse on the archivault, for no accessible portion of the Cathedral is perpendicularly above any archivault. None of the guides remembered having shown a clergyman over the towers.

Recent accounts from British Columbia state that mining is still proving successful and remunerative to those engaged in it. Gold to the value of $74,415 was assayed at the government assay office during November. The yield of the Omineca mines during the past season was $400,000.

An interesting literary relic is announced for sale in London. It is Oliver Goldsmith's "Political View of the Present War with America upon Great Britain, France, Prussia, Germany and Holland," an original autograph manuscript, forty pages folio, believed to be unpublished, which came from the library of Isaac Reed, to whom it was presented by George Stevens, who had it from Hamilton, the printer. Mr. Hawes's account of Goldsmith's use of James's powders in his last illness, which was printed in 1774, accompanies the manuscript.

Inquiries are still going on in the United States Register's office, concerning the fate of certain vessels in which the Tichborne claimant is said to have sailed. These searches are being made at the request of the counsel for the defendants. The Osprey, of Boston, has been clearly traced to Australia in 1854. It is not yet ascertained whether she rescued any passengers from the Bella. The Osprey herself was lost on her return from Australia, with seventy or eighty passengers on board.

There is a child now in Warren county, North Carolina, who was born with perfect holes in its ears ready for the reception of earrings.

The tobacco interest on the Pacific slope is assuming considerable importance. It is estimated that 72,000,000 cigars are manufactured annually on that coast. It is claimed that tobacco is raised in the Santa Clara Valley which equals the best imported Havana article.

An interesting case for the doctors was furnished recently by an Ohio farmer, in whose anatomy a wheat beard, which he had swallowed, pushed itself about for five months, and finally issued from his cheek.

Among the prizes offered by the Cambridge University, England, for the year 1872, is a gold medal for a Latin ode, not to exceed thirty stanzas, on the subject: "The American united with the British people in a bond of peace and friendship."

In a police case in New York, on Friday, a youth, about ten years of age, was placed on the stand to give his testimony. The lawyer, as usual, asked the boy if he knew the nature of an oath, and received an affirmative reply. When asked what they do to persons who swear to a lie, he replied, "They make policemen out of 'em."

Henry Shaller, a seaman of the frigate Wabash, during her outward voyage, fell from the maintop-gallant yard into the water, a distance of one hundred and fifty feet, and was picked up uninjured. He is one of the four survivors of the Oneida.

A Mr. Shanley, of Kit Carson, recently lost a valuable cow, and after a long search found her in the midst of a herd of 60,000 buffaloes. The bison community had received her on terms of absolute equality, and it took three men and three